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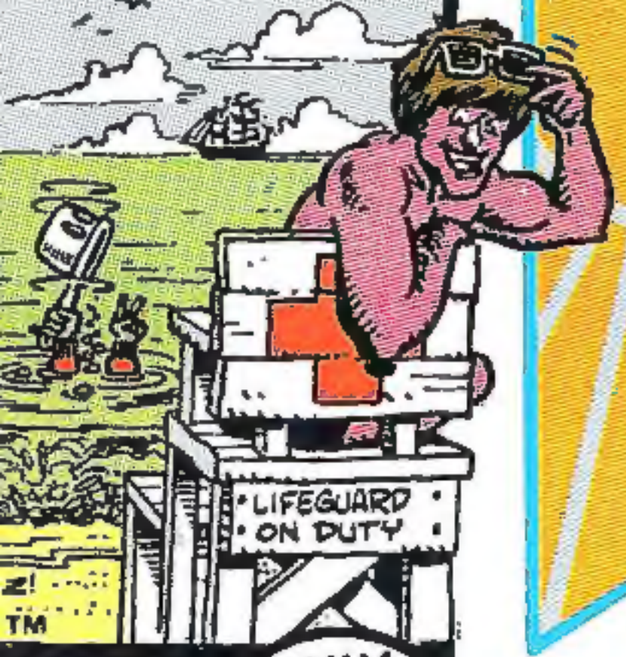

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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE®

SPECIAL SUMMER FUN ISSUE!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

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SALICRUP'S SECTION

Way back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #42, we ran *the 1986 Marvel Summer Annuals Report Card*. Well, we finally got around to tabulating all the scores, or to be more precise, **Glenn Herdling**, assistant editor for all the SPIDER-MAN titles, did, and we'd like to share the results with you right now! Remember, the scores below reflect the percentage of the total votes cast, so you've got no one to blame but yourselves if your favorite annual didn't score as high as you'd like!

1986 MARVEL AGE® SUMMER ANNUALS REPORT CARD		OUTSTANDING	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	AWFUL
CAPTAIN AMERICA #8	STORY	28.6	48.6	21.4	1.4	0.0
	ART	25.7	62.9	11.4	0.0	0.0
	OVERALL	28.6	60.0	10.0	1.4	0.0
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #2	STORY	36.1	37.7	21.3	3.3	1.6
	ART	52.5	29.5	11.5	4.9	1.6
	OVERALL	44.3	41.0	8.2	3.3	3.2
ALPHA FLIGHT #1	STORY	17.8	35.5	38.7	4.8	3.2
	ART	17.7	40.3	33.9	1.6	6.5
	OVERALL	16.1	41.9	32.3	8.1	1.6
X-FACTOR #1	STORY	42.5	37.0	9.6	6.8	4.1
	ART	42.5	39.7	11.0	4.1	2.7
	OVERALL	46.6	37.0	8.2	4.1	4.1
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #6	STORY	21.1	42.1	29.8	7.0	0.0
	ART	40.4	29.8	26.3	3.5	0.0
	OVERALL	26.3	42.1	24.6	7.0	0.0
INCREDIBLE HULK #15	STORY	27.1	37.5	27.1	4.2	4.2
	ART	29.2	39.6	20.8	4.2	6.2
	OVERALL	27.1	43.8	16.7	8.3	4.1
IRON MAN #8	STORY	30.8	43.1	16.9	9.2	0.0
	ART	20.0	58.5	18.5	1.5	1.5
	OVERALL	26.1	47.7	20.0	6.2	0.0
AVENGERS #15	STORY	54.4	32.3	11.8	1.5	0.0
	ART	14.7	39.7	22.1	19.1	4.4
	OVERALL	38.2	35.3	20.6	5.9	0.0
WEST COAST AVENGERS #1	STORY	50.0	42.7	4.4	2.9	0.0
	ART	32.4	57.3	8.8	1.5	1.5
	OVERALL	51.5	41.2	4.4	2.9	0.0
NEW MUTANTS #2	STORY	30.9	30.9	19.1	8.8	10.3
	ART	32.4	36.8	17.6	7.4	5.8
	OVERALL	30.9	32.4	25.0	2.9	8.8
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20	STORY	41.3	33.3	22.2	3.2	0.0
	ART	42.9	41.3	15.8	0.0	0.0
	OVERALL	42.9	38.1	17.5	1.5	0.0
CONAN #10	STORY	3.6	32.1	25.0	10.7	28.6
	ART	7.1	46.4	17.9	7.1	21.5
	OVERALL	7.1	42.9	14.3	10.7	25.0
X-MEN #10	STORY	55.1	30.4	7.3	2.9	4.3
	ART	72.5	17.4	5.8	2.9	1.4
	OVERALL	60.9	29.0	4.3	2.9	2.9
G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #3	STORY	41.2	32.4	17.5	2.9	5.9
	ART	44.1	47.2	2.9	2.9	2.9
	OVERALL	44.1	29.4	20.6	0.0	5.9

Well, there you have it! The results speak for themselves! Rest assured we're all hard at work making this year's annuals even better. We'll run a report card for the '87 annuals in this space next month, but in the meantime, turn to page 9 of this issue to get a sneak peek at what to expect this summer!

And don't forget to pick up the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL, too! It'll feature all the fun and glory of "The FRED HEMBECK Show," and much, much more! Be there!

—Jim Salicrup

MARVEL AGENDA

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing an **August** cover date.

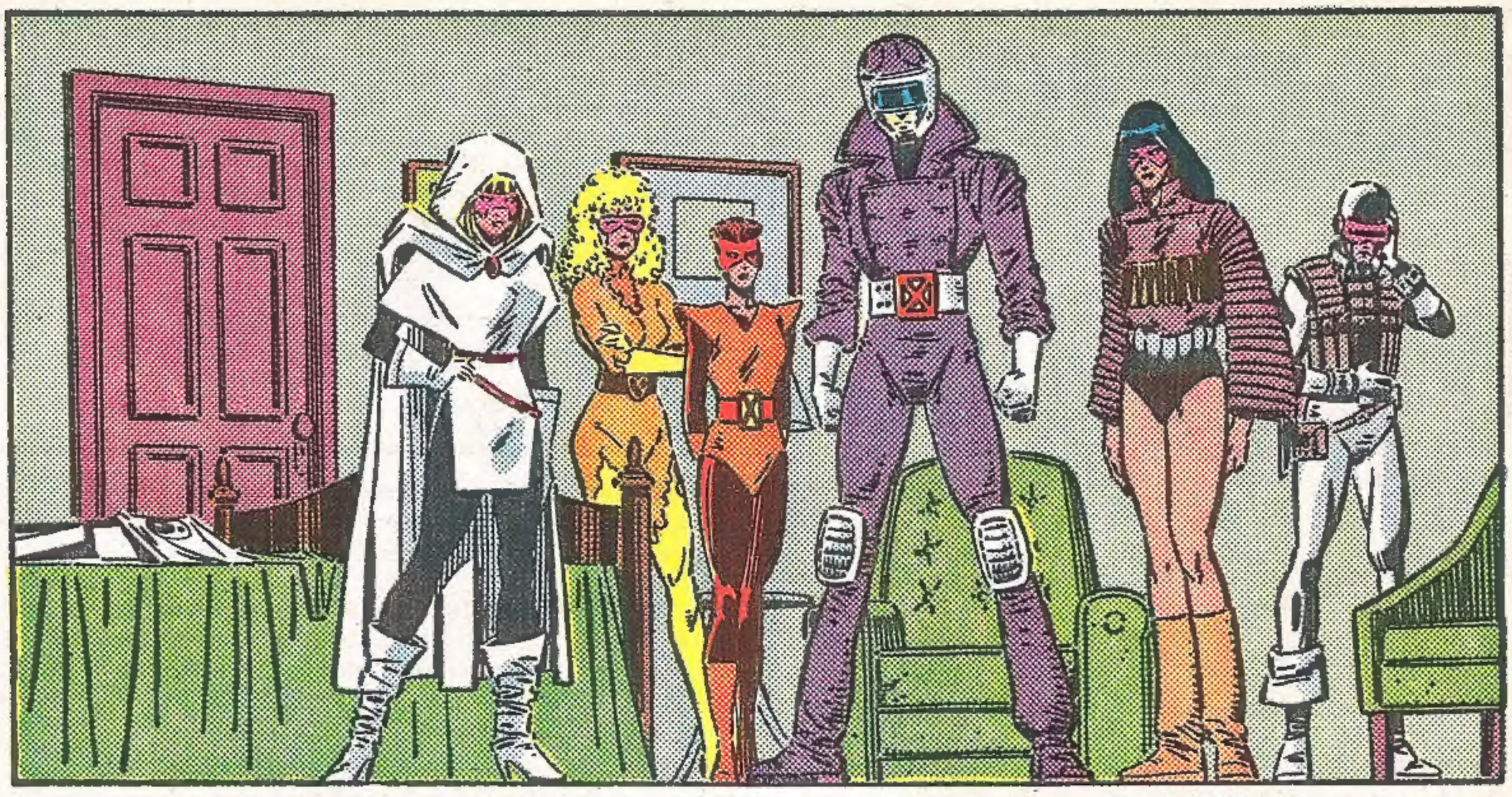
Drugs spark a disaster for **Cannonball** in **THE NEW MUTANTS! Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson** get married in **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #21! **Wolverine** faces the ultimate choice in **THE UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL** #11! And a new **Captain America** dons the famous uniform! That's just a glimpse at the Earth-shaking events going on next month! To make sure you don't miss out on any of it, tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles today!

Titles Shipping May 5, On Sale May 26

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #246—A criminal informant under the witness protection program becomes **Chance's** next target for death, and only **Daredevil** can stop him! Written by **Jim Owsley.** 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #10—**The Strikeforce** discovers how merciless the alien **Horde** ravaging Earth can really be when they journey to the planet first attacked by the space-faring world ravagers. "Cats" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams.** 75¢.

The Black Panther and Hornhead have their hands full fighting T'Challa's former bodyguard in DAREDEVIL.



Magik, Lava, Wolfsbane, Cannonball, Mirage, and Cypher get new costumes in THE NEW MUTANTS.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS #55—Cannonball** succumbs to the pressure of **Lila Cheney's** rock crowd and says "Yes." to drugs. What happens then is a devastating trip that takes **Cannonball** out of this world! "Flying Wild" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **NIGHTMASK #11—Can Keith Remsen's** friend **Dr. Lucian Ballad** really be an evil voodoo sorcerer? **Keith's** quest to discover the truth continues when, as **Nightmask**, he enters the darkest of the nightmare dreamworld to find out! "Voodoo In New Orleans" is written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Kyle Baker**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE #11—A** booby-trapped cave seals the **Psi Force** in a subterranean deathtrap from which their chances of escape are slim to none! "A New Life" is written by **Danny Fingeroth** and penciled by **Bob Hall**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #30—Richard Fisk** reveals the soul-searing origin of **the Rose**! Plus: a new **Hobgoblin** on the loose—deadlier than the original! "The Wages Of Sin" is written by **Jim Owsley** and penciled by **Steve Geiger**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #24—The West Coast Avengers** take on the man who thrust them back in time—**Dominus**! Plus: a dramatic change in the future of **Wonder Man**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #5—Ming the Merciless** and the vile **Dr. Dark** unite their forces in their greatest bid yet to conquer the planet and crush **the Defenders of the Earth**! Written by **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #9—The** hapless magician **Orko** gains the power to destroy the evil arch-enemy of **He-Man, Hordak**! But the possession of such great power always carries a price—and for **Orko** the price could be his life! "The Hate Stones" is written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Dick Ayers**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #17—**The final issue finds **Peter Porker** up to his ham hocks in music madness when the rappin' **Fat Cats** cruise into town! "Pig Out" is written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Joe Albelo**, and inked by **Pierre Fournier**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS #15—Mumm-Ra** launches the ultimate plot to ensnare **Lion-O** and **the Thundercats** in a trap from which there is no escape—**Spidera's** Kingdom of Webs! "Queen Of Eight Legs" is written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Jim Mooney**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING #42—King Conan** launches the greatest sea invasion in the history of the Hyborean Age to destroy the nation of Argos for daring to war against his kingdom of Aquilonia. "The Armada" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Freja Bator**. $1.25.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL #11—**Would you change the universe if the power to do so fell into your hands? **Wolverine** faces that possibility when the awesome Crystal of Ultimate Vision drops into his possession! Will he use it to reshape the universe into his own image? The stunning answer is found in "A Universe For Me or The Lord Of The Dance" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis** and inked by **Paul Neary**. $1.25.

Titles Shipping May 12, On Sale June 2

☐ **THE PUNISHER #3—The Punisher** tries to build a new, peaceful, life for himself in the Midwest—and fails! "The Devil Came From Kansas" is written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #333—If Captain America** is gone—then who is the hero wearing his proud uniform? The answer is a shocker! "The Replacement" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #6—**In the aftermath of the death of **Don the lobster**, the nature of good, evil, and friendship and how each **Fallen Angel** responds to them is put to the test. Introducing **Ariel's** fabulous alien home, "The Coconut Grove." Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Joe Staton**, and inked by **Val Mayerik**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292—**A frantic plea for help from **Mary Jane Watson** in Pittsburgh plunges **Peter Parker** into the middle of a traumatic family crisis and **Spider-Man** into a city-spanning fight for his life against the **Spider Slayer**! Plus: **Mary Jane Watson** gives her answer to **Peter Parker's** proposal of marriage! Written by **David Michelinie** and penciled by **John Romita Jr.** 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **KICKERS INC. #11**—If **Kickers Inc.** was created to assist helpless people in desperate need, then why must **Kickers Darlene Magniconte, Brick Wall** and **Suicide** disobey an illegal alien family cruelly exploited by mob drug merchants? The stunning answer lies "In ? We Trust." Written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MERC #11**—**Mark Hazzard** goes after revenge against his Iranian captors—and the man that betrayed him to them! "Retribution" is written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Gray Morrow**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES #6**—Two suspense-filled series featured together in one of Marvel's hallmark titles!

Doctor Strange, convinced he is no longer worthy to wear the mystic Orb of Agamotto, seeks renewal in the Tibetan sanctuary of his long-dead mentor **the Ancient One** only to discover that the remote, deserted retreat is occupied—by a woman possessing a portentious secret! "Returning" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

Cloak and Dagger inadvertantly eavesdrop on a girl's furtive confession in an abandoned church and become swept up in a rescue attempt that threatens to tear their relationship apart in "Eye Of The Needle." Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #5**—**The Cult of the Klaw** launches a vicious attack against **Chuck Norris**. And **Chuck's** only chance of coming out of the battle alive rests in the hands of one young, frightened orphan. "Fear" is written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Sam de la Rosa**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **EWOKS #15**—Fleeing from the evil **Duloks**, the **Ewoks Wicket** and **Teebo** discover the lost city of Endor-la—a place of peace and good will which leads them into more trouble than they imagined! "The Hidden City" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #31**—What is worse than a klutzy barbarian with a deadly blade? A *rich* klutzy barbarian with a deadly blade! And that rich klutzy barbarian is **Groo**! What happens when he acquires a fortune is a wreaking of havoc and humor that leaves the countryside devastated and fans in stitches! Written and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** with kibbitzing by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEADMASTERS (Limited Series) #2**—At last—**the Headmasters** are born! But will this incredible melding of human and robot be enough to avert the overwhelming force of **Decepticons** about to launch their greatest assault? Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #3**—It's lycanthropic lunacy at its wackiest when **Heathcliff** has to search through the city to find a silver bullet to stop "The Werewolf Of Westfinster." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #50**—**Alpha Flight** embarks on a race-against-time quest to find a cure for the disease killing **Northstar**. But their search proves to be a fatal one for some of **the Alpha Flight** members! A double-sized and danger-filled adventure that shall change the ranks of **Alpha Flight** forever! Guest-starring: **Loki**! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. $1.25.

A Limited Series is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A Graphic Novel is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A Digest is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A Trade Paperback is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A Direct Sales title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #2**—**The West Coast Avengers** travel into the Death Dimension to rescue **the Avengers** only to discover that they must fight the very comrades they hoped to free! It's the action-packed beginning of a saga that concludes in THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #16! Guest-starring: **the Grandmaster**! Written by **Steve Englehart** and illustrated by **Al Milgrom**. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #5**—From **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s** 65, 66, and 67, **Spider-Man's** epic battle against **Mysterio** is re-presented in this special pocket-sized anthology series. "The Impossible Escape," "The Madness of Mysterio," and "To Squash A Spider" are written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #139**—With a blood-mad Aquilonian war fleet chasing their pirate ship, **Conan, Valeria**, and **the Red Brotherhood** seek refuge in a sinister island that is anything but a sanctuary! "Garden of Blood" is written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers only. $2.00

ONCE I WAS OF THE FORMER, TWO-LEGGED RACE, UNTIL HUNGER DROVE ME TO EAT A DEAD BODY BELONGING TO THE LATTER!
THE SAME GAS THAT SLEW THAT RODENT ALTERED ME! POETIC JUSTICE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY--

Vermin is the sewer-dwelling child-stealer Cloak and Dagger must stop at all costs in STRANGE TALES.

Titles Shipping May 19, On Sale June 9

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #54—A nifty nuptial spotlight on the **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson** wedding—and what it means for **Spider-Man**! Plus all your favorite features: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** page, Coming Attractions, and more! Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #283—**The Avengers** have escaped Hades, reached Olympus, and have settled their differences with the Greek gods! Then why are **Zeus**, **Ares**, **Artemis**, and **Dionysus** out for blood—**Avengers** blood! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #335—What is the horrifying force terrorizing a remote village? Is it **the Hulk**—or something far worse? "The Evil That Men Do" is written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **John Ridgway**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #203—**Spider-Man** and **Tigra** both become the quarry of **Kraven the Hunter** in the thrilling re-presentation of the fast-paced adventure reprinted from **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #67, "Tigra, Tigra, Burning Bright." Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #3—**The Silver Surfer** faces **Espirita, the Collector**, and **the Runner** from **the Elders of the Universe** in a galaxy-shaking tie-in with **THE AVENGERS ANNUAL** #16 and **WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL** #2! And the confrontation leads **the Silver Surfer** into his first battle in the dread Kree/Skrull War! Face it, this one has it all! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marhsall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #221—**The X-Men** take on **the Marauders** in a do-or-die rescue of their friend **Madelyn Pryor** and confront **the Marauders'** merciless leader, **Mr. Sinister**! Plus: **Rogue** and **Dazzler** begin to work out their differences under fire—in the Danger Room! "Death By Drowning" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

The Hulk battles something not quite human in THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7 #11—Hackbarth the Regulator** decrees that **D.P. 7's Stephanie** must die! Meanwhile, the only free member of **D.P. 7**, **Dave Landers**, meets the uncanny **ESPeople**—are they friends or foes? "Haven" is written by **Mark Gruenwald** and penciled by **Paul Ryan**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE #11—Justice** is dying! But will even the valiant self-sacrifice of his wizard friend be enough to revive him before the evil forces of the **Winterland** attack? Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Keith Giffen**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #198—**Red Sonja** is attacked and brutally beaten by one of **Conan's** enemies, causing **Conan** to embark on a mission of bloody retribution. "The River" is co-plotted and written by **Jim Owsley**, co-plotted and penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #63—The **G.I. Joe Snow Job** tries to smoke out the informant in the gulag where he's imprisoned—without getting caught or killed! "Going Under" is written by **Larry Hama**, debuting new regular penciler **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #22—Everyone's talking about **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson**! Find out the facts about their relationship in this special issue-long tribute! Written by **Peter David**, with an introduction by **Stan Lee**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #15—If you thought **the Muppet Babies'** wild imagination took them off on some wacky adventures before—wait'll you see what happens when **the Muppet Babies** go to summer camp! "Camp Muppet" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and illustrated by **Marie Severin**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL** #20—**Franklin Richards** becomes the key element in **Dr. Doom's** greatest attempt to free his mother's soul. But before **Dr. Doom** can initiate his plan, he must first battle—**Dr. Doom**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. $1.25.

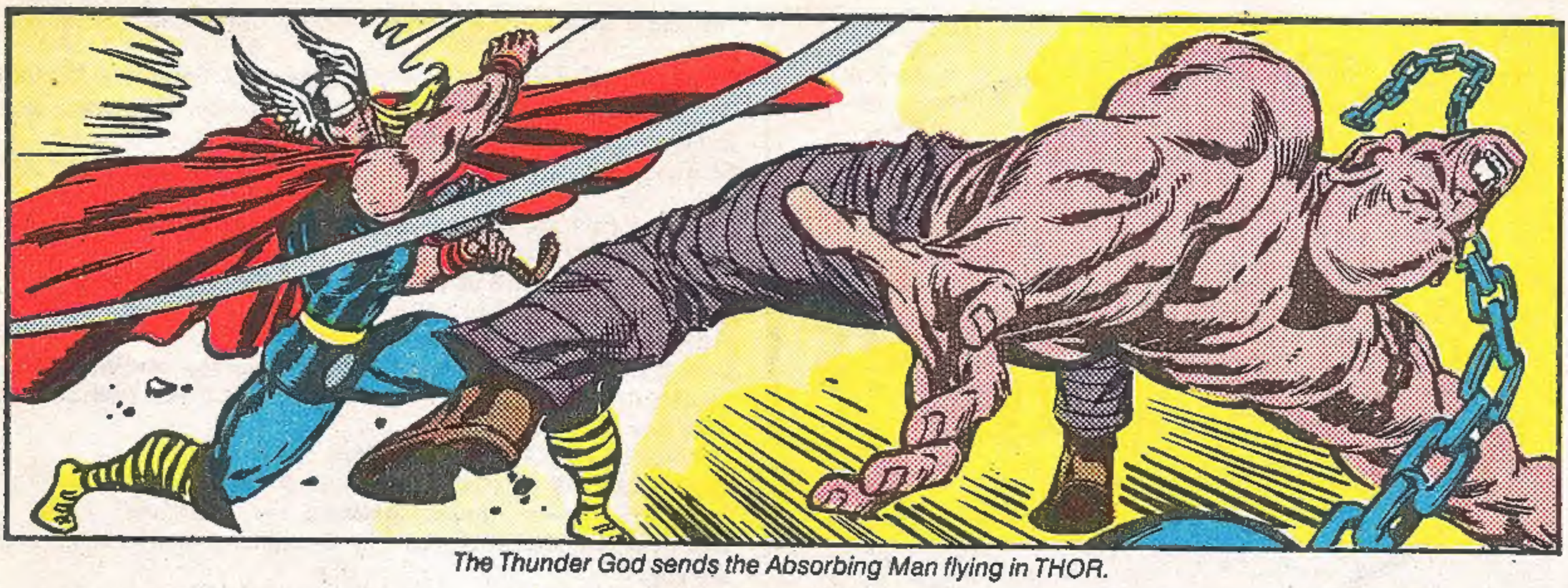
☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #21—The wedding of **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson**! 'Nuff said! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. $1.25.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #34—**Fandral the Dashing! Hogun the Grim! Volstagg the Voluminous!** They're the great **Warriors Three** in a four-part **MARVEL FANFARE** epic! When **Loki** is not invited to an Asgardian wedding, he takes his revenge by transforming the bridegroom into a goat. Unless **the Warriors Three** can quickly collect the magic charms needed to reverse the spell, Asgard is doomed! In part one, **Volstaag's** might and legendary girth are put to the supreme test when his quest takes him to the castle of a devious sorceress! Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, and illustrated by **Charles Vess**. Hudson paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** Trade Paperback—The first four issues of Marvel's acclaimed series of a combat soldier's view of the war in Vietnam are re-presented in this high-quality volume! "First Patrol," "Dustoff," "Three Day Pass," and "Six O'Clock News" are written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil** and **Pepe Moreno**. 96 pages. $4.95.

Titles Shipping May 26, On Sale June 16

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #306—**The Fantastic Four** find themselves in more trouble than even they can handle when they're attacked by **Diablo** and **the Elementals**! Plus: who will be the newest member of **the Fantastic Four**? Guest-starring: **Captain America**, **Ms. Marvel**, and **the Inhumans**. "The Marvel Rage" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.



The Thunder God sends the Absorbing Man flying in THOR.

☐ **IRON MAN** #222—**Tony Stark** discovers a shattering secret about himself and the people who depend on him most. Plus: an old and favorite friend returns! Co-plotted and written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #10—Just what do the citizens of Saigon think of the American soldiers in their country? **Cpl. Ed Marks** and his friends discover the gritty truth when they become a part of the security force assigned to patrol the South Vietnamese capitol during that country's National Day celebrations. Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #130—**Spider-Man** has only twenty-four hours to find the antidote to the poison taken by his friend **Harry Osborn**, but **Spidey's** only hope lies with his enemies **the Hobgoblin** and **the Kingpin**. "24 Hours" is written by **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Jim Fern**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE** #12—**Jenny's** father's personality is programmed into her new **Spitfire** armor. For her to succeed in her CIA mission, she must destroy that program—and with it, the last vestige of her dead father's presence! Written by **Len Kaminsky**, penciled by **Javier Saltares**, and inked by **Jim Fern**. 75¢.

☐ **STAR BRAND** #9—Tormented by the death of a young boy he could not save, **Ken Connell** must come to grips with the fact that as great as **the Star Brand** power is—some forces in the universe are even greater. To try and help him through his troubles is **Nightmask**! Written by **Cary Bates**, illustrated by **Keith Giffen**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #383—A gripping untold tale of **the Secret Wars** saga reveals the tragic consequences of the love **the Enchantress** holds for **Thor**—and the price she must pay to betray it! Guest-starring: **Piledriver, the Absorbing Man, the Wrecker, Kang, Titania**, and **Doctor Octopus**! "This Secret Love" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Bret Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #20—The scars of **X-Factor's** battle against **the Horsemen of the Apocalypse** have cut deep—into the land and into the souls of those unlucky enough to witness the war! Can those scars ever be healed? The need to answer that question becomes the focus for an incredible "Children's Crusade." Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #12—When the crazed artist **Winslow Homely** creates a magic canvas that can bring whatever he draws on it to life, he embarks on a revenge-filled spree against all who rejected his work. Can even the **Care Bears** soothe his hate-filled heart? "The Magic Canvas" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #13—**Phoenix** takes on **Firelord**, creating a holocaust that could destroy the Earth! From **X-MEN** #105, "Phoenix Unleashed!" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. Plus: a special new twelve-page tie-in tale written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #26—The battle against **the Trolls** is over—for now. But before the quest to find the legendary **High Ones** can continue, **the Wolfriders** must honor their dead . . . a duty complicated by the presence of **Rayjek**! Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE INHUMANOIDS** #5—**The Inhumanoid D'Compose** changes the beautiful **Sandra Shore** into a hideous beast! And now she's after the rest of **the Earth Corps**! "My Sister, The Monster!" is written by **Jim Salicrup**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #32—When six damaged **Autobots** go up for auction on an unscrupulous used car dealer's lot, the other **Autobots** find themselves in a deadly bidding war against **the Decepticons** to try and rescue their friends! "Used Autobots" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE** #5—The pocket-sized anthology re-presenting the classic **Transformers** adventures continues. From **THE TRANSFORMERS** #s 9 and 10: "Disintegrated Circuits" and "The Next Best Thing To Being There" written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Mike Manley** and **Ricardo Villamonte**, and inked by **M. Hands** and **Brad Joyce**. Plus: biographies of your favorite **Transformers**! A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #2—The earliest tales of the greatest barbarian hero of all time return in this special black and white magazine series. From **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #s 4, 5, and 6 "Tower Of The Elephant," "Zukula's Daughter," and "Devil Wings Over Shadizar." Written by **Roy Thomas** with illustrations and a new cover by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #3—With complete story and art credits, lively synoposes, and full-page color cover reproductions tucked inside a classy stiff-paper cover, this handsome reference series on Marvel's most famous mutants is a must! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $2.95.

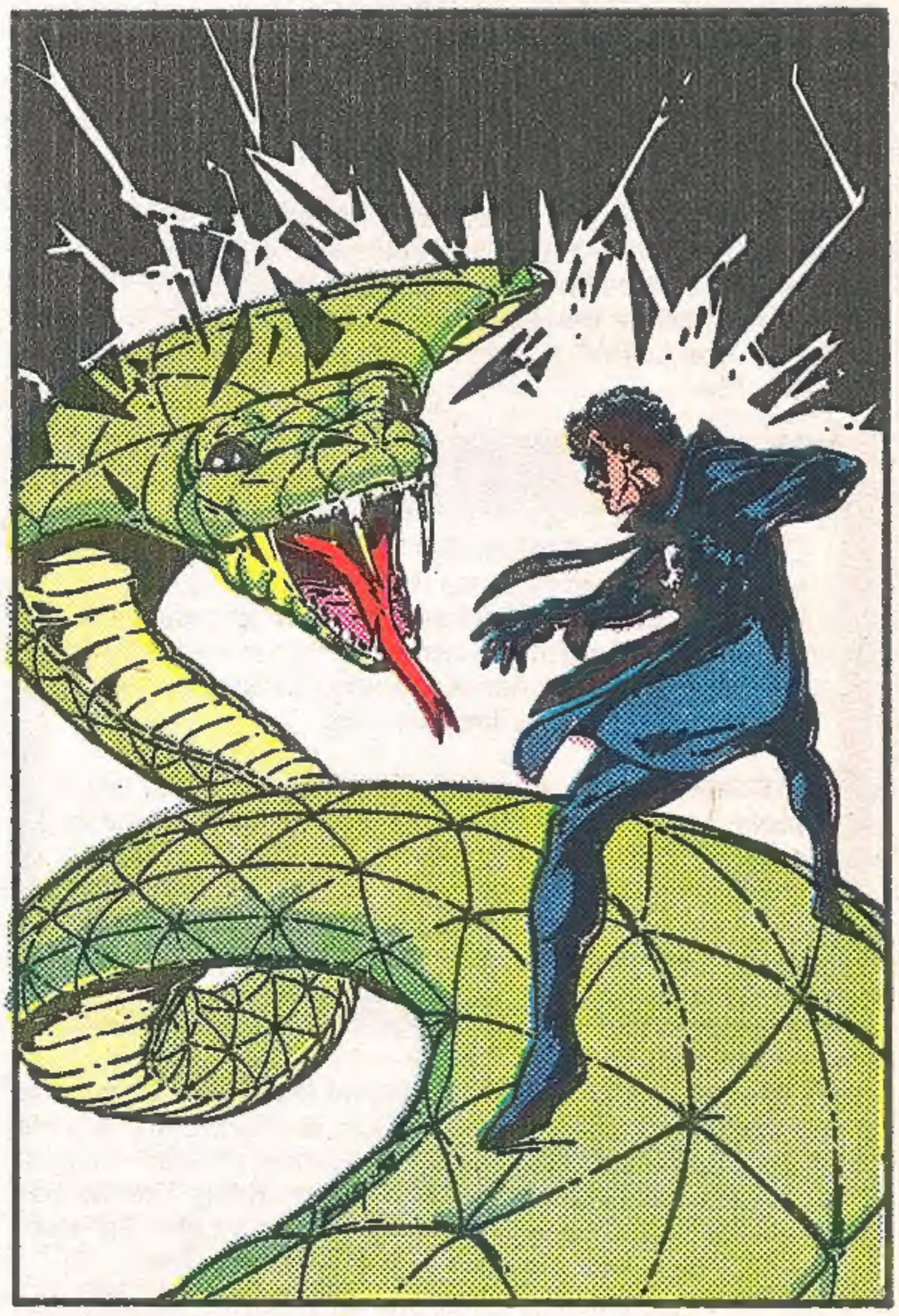
☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE** Trade Paperback #5—**Molecule Man, Moondragon, Moon Knight, the Morlocks, the New Mutants, Nightcrawler, Nimrod, Northstar, Odin, Phoenix, Polaris, Power Pack, Professor X, Punisher, the Purple Man, Quicksilver, Reject**, and **Rhino** are just a *few* of the heroes and villains whose biographies, powers and secrets you'll discover in the high quality edition of the ultimate reference series of all the Marvel characters. Written by **Peter Sanderson**, penciled by **Mike Zeck, Carl Potts, Bill Sienkiewicz, Paul Smith, John Byrne, Walter Simonson, Brian Bolland, John Romita Jr., Ron Frenz** and many others, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 128 pages. $6.95.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping June

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE ANNUAL #3
DAREDEVIL #247—by Nocenti, Williams, and DeZuniga.
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #11—by Gillis, B. Anderson, and Williamson.
THE NEW MUTANTS #56—by L. Simonson, Bievins, and Williamson.
NIGHTMASK #12—by R. and D. Thomas, Bagley, and DeZuniga.
PSI FORCE #12—by McCormick-Lowy, Hall, and Williamson.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #31
WEST COAST AVENGERS #25—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #7—by Hama and Trimpe.
HUGGA BUNCH #7—by Franco, Costanza, and Roettcher.
THUNDERCATS #16
THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #16—by DeFalco.
ALPHA FLIGHT #51—by Mantlo, Shoemaker, and Portacio.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #334—by Gruenwald and Morgan.
FALLEN ANGELS #7—by Duffy, Staton, and Palmer.
KICKERS, INC. #12—by Kavanagh, Whigham, and DeZuniga.
THE MERC #12—by Murray and Morrow.
THE PUNISHER #3—by Baron and Janson.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293—by Michelinie and Romita Jr.
STRANGE TALES #7—by Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo, and Bievins.
GROO THE WANDERER #32—by Aragones with Evanier.
HEATHCLIFF #18—by DeCesare, Kremer, and Roettcher.
POWER PACK #32—by L. Simonson, Bogdanove, and Barta.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3
X-FACTOR ANNUAL #2—by Duffy and Grindberg.
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #6
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #55—Spider-Man wedding.
THE AVENGERS #284—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
D.P. 7 #12—by Gruenwald, Ryan, and Tanghal.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #336—by David and McFarlane.
JUSTICE #12—by R. Thomas and Giffen.
MARVEL TALES #204—by Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.
SILVER SURFER #4—by Englehart, Rogers, and Rubinstein.
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #222—by Claremont, Silvestri, and Green.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #199—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.
FLINTSTONE KIDS #2—by Gallagher, Colon, and Milgrom.
FOOFUR #2—by Gallagher, Brown, and Roettcher.
G.I. JOE #64—by Hama, Wagner, and Mushynsky.
THE MARVEL SAGA #23—by Sanderson.
SILVERHAWKS #2—by Perry, Witherby, and Sanders.

THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3—by Claremont, Davis, and Neary.
STAR BRAND ANNUAL #1—by Chase, Isherwood, and Nichols.
THE DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel—by Aragones and Evanier.
FANTASTIC FOUR #307—by Englehart, J. Buscema, and Sinnott.
IRON MAN #223—by Michelinie, Bright, and Layton.
THE 'NAM #11—by Murray and Golden.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #131
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #13
THOR #384—by DeFalco and Frenz.
X-FACTOR #21—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.
CLASSIC X-MEN #14—by Claremont, Cockrum, Bolton, and Grainger.
ELFQUEST #27—by W. and R. Pini.
MADBALLS #6—by Gallagher, Post, and Edelman.
POPPLES #6—by Franco, Costanza, and Roettcher.
THE TRANSFORMERS #33—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
PSI-FORCE ANNUAL #1—by Fingeroth and Texeira.
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #6—by Hama and others.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #18—by Sanderson and others.
CONAN SAGA #3—by R. Thomas and Windsor-Smith.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #3—compiled by Olshevsky.



Keith Remsen encounters reptilian danger in the nightmare realm in NIGHTMASK.

Titles Shipping July

DAREDEVIL #248—by Nocenti, Williams, and DeZuniga.
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #12—by Gillis, B. Anderson, and Williamson.
THE NEW MUTANTS #57—by L. Simonson, Bievins, and Williamson.

HEY, SORRY WE DIDN'T LEAVE A LITTLE ACTION FOR YOU, C.M.--BUT OUR JAILERS FOLDED TOO EASILY! AT LEAST, WE'RE ALL FREE AGAIN, THANKS TO NAMOR'S TIMELY ARRIVAL!
WE ARE NOT ALL ACCOUNTED FOR, SHE-HULK!
DOCTOR DRUID'S RIGHT... THOR IS MISSING!
THOR WAS WITH YOU AS WELL?! WHAT POWER COULD HAVE CONSIGNED SUCH A TEAM OF AVENGERS TO HADES?
HADES?!

Earth's greatest heroes bust out of a dungeon cell in Hades in THE AVENGERS.

NIGHTMASK #13—by R. and D. Thomas.
PSI FORCE #13—by Fingeroth and Saltares.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #32
WEST COAST AVENGERS #26—by Englehart, Milgrom, and Sinnott.
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #6—by Higgins, Saviuk, and Fredericks.
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #10
THUNDERCATS #17
CONAN THE KING #43—by Kraar, Docherty, and Bator.
THE MERC ANNUAL #1—by Murray, Waller, and Zeck.
ROBOCOP
ALPHA FLIGHT #52—by Mantlo, Shoemaker, and Portacio.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #335—by Gruenwald and Morgan.
FALLEN ANGELS #8—by Duffy, Staton, and Palmer.
KICKERS, INC. #13—by Kavanagh, Whigham, and DeZuniga.
THE MERC #13—by Murray and Morrow.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294
STRANGE TALES #8—by Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo, and Blevins.
CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #6—by Mackie, Saviuk, and de la Rosa.
EWOKS #16—by Manak, Kremer, and D'Agostino.
GROO THE WANDERER #33—by Aragones with Evanier.
HEADMASTERS #3—by Budiansky, Springer, Akin, and Garvey.
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #4—by Gallagher, Kremer, and Roettcher.
DOCTOR ZERO #1
D.P. 7 ANNUAL #1—by Gruenwald and Ryan.
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #6—by Lee, Romita Sr., and Esposito.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #141—by Dixon, Kwapisz, and Chan
G.I JOE ORDER OF BATTLE Trade Paperback—by Hama and others.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56
THE AVENGERS #285—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
D.P. 7 #13—by Gruenwald and Ryan.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #337—by David and McFarlane.
JUSTICE #13—by R. Thomas and Giffen.
MARVEL TALES #205—by Claremont, Byrne, and Hunt.
THE PUNISHER #4—by Baron and Janson.
SILVER SURFER #5—by Englehart, Rogers, and Rubinstein.
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #223—by Claremont, Silvestri, and Green.
G.I. JOE #65—by Hama, Wagner, and Mushynsky.
THE MARVEL SAGA #24—by Sanderson.
MUPPET BABIES #16—by Hitchcock and M. Severin.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #200—by Owsley, Semeiks, and Isherwood.
MARVEL FANFARE #35—by Zelenetz and Vess.
FANTASTIC FOUR #308—by Englehart, J. Buscema, and Sinnott
IRON MAN #224—by Michelinie, Bright, and Layton.
THE 'NAM #12—by Murray and Golden.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #132
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #14
STAR BRAND #10—by R. Thomas.
THOR #385—by DeFalco and Frenz.
X-FACTOR #22—by L. Simonson, W. Simonson, and Wiacek.
CARE BEARS #13—by Gallagher, Post, and Edelman.
CLASSIC X-MEN #15—by Claremont, Cockrum, Bolton, and Grainger.
ELFQUEST #28—by W. and R. Pini.
THE INHUMANOIDS #6—by Sallcrup.
POWER PACK #33—by L. Simonson.
THE TRANSFORMERS #34—by Budiansky, Perlin, Akin, and Garvey.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #7—by Lee, M. Severin, and Romita Sr.
THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE #6—by Budiansky and others.
CONAN SAGA #6—by R. Thomas and Windsor-Smith.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #4—compiled by Olshevsky.

NEWSWATCH

▶ TIM'S WISH
▶ CARL'S CLASS
▶ CAP'S TERMINATION!

ITEM: On February 12th, your batty Bullpen, working with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an international organization helping to grant the desires of kids with life-threatening illnesses, made a young man's dream come true by rolling out the red carpet for sixteen-year-old **Timothy Cox**. Tim, an aspiring artist from Oakton, Virginia, who suffers from spinal cancer, told the Make-A-Wish Foundation that he'd like to talk to **Stan Lee**. Well, when we heard about Tim's wish, we were so knocked out that we decided to make his wish even more memorable and invited Tim and his family up to the Bullpen itself! Everyone here had a great time showing Tim and his family how the adventures of our heroes and villains are produced. Tim talked to the editors and got the inside scoop on what's in store for **Spider-Man**, **the X-Men**, **Fallen Angels**, **the New Mutants**, and all our other super heroes. And escorting him the whole time was

Spider-Man and Editor in Chief Jim Shooter welcome Timmy Cox to Marvel.

Spider-Man himself! All too soon the tour came to an end, but Tim said his visit was one he'd never forget—and one we won't either! Oh yeah, in case you're wondering if he got to talk to Stan, he did! Stan was away from his Marvel Productions office in California on business when Tim visited the New York City Bullpen, but after he got back, Stan rang Tim up at home and the two had a great chat!

ITEM: Hopeful comic book artists in the New York City area have a chance to learn their craft from one of Marvel's own editors, **Carl Potts**, at the Parsons School of Design this summer. Carl's teaching a two night a week course that covers every aspect of comic book illustrating. So if you live in or near New York City and are looking for some hints, helpful suggestions, and practical lessons in comic book art, give Parsons a call—there still might be an opening!

ITEM: Welcome to Marvel, **Ann Eagan**! Ann is our new Direct Sales Manager for the West Coast. She'll be helping distributors and retailers in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho and Arizona keep up with all the latest goings-on at Marvel, coordinating special events and appearances, and of course making sure that you get all your favorite comics on time! Ann comes to us by way of Comics & Comix in California where she gained valuable experience about the direct sales market. We're all happy to have her with us! Again, welcome aboard, Ann!

ITEM: No, it's not a hoax, not a dream! After forty-six years of distinguished service, **Steve Rogers** quits as **Captain America** and is stripped of his rank and uniform by the president! Who will be the new Captain America? What will happen to Steve Rogers? The incredible news breaks in CAPTAIN AMERICA #332, written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. It's one of the most traumatic chapters in the history of one of Marvel's oldest—and greatest—heroes! And if you miss it, you'll never forgive yourself! 'Nuff said!

THE TOP TEN

Ta-Daaaaa! Time again for another look at the ten best-selling direct sales titles! This time we take a look at the list of comics for January. And, as before, the ranking is compiled by our very own Director of Specialty Sales **Carol Kalish**.

1—**X-MEN #217**
2—**THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #2**
3—**X-FACTOR #16**
4—**FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN #4**
5—**G.I. JOE #59**
6—**CLASSIC X-MEN #9**
7—**MEPHISTO VS. X-FACTOR #2**
8—**THE NEW MUTANTS #51**
9—**FALLEN ANGELS #2**
10—**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #288**

AN ANNUAL TRADITION

'CAUSE THAT WISH MIGHT SOMETIMES BE GRANTED.
DOUG'S ACTIVATED THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM--
--WE'RE IN CENTRAL PARK!
THE HECK WITH THAT, ILLYANA--
--LOOK WHO WE'RE S'POSED TO FIGHT!
--THE AVENGERS!
HAVE FUN!
TEEN AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
LET'S GET 'EM, GLORY-HOUNDS!!

The New Mutants get involved in non-stop fights of fantasy in THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL.

It was 1963 when Marvel's very first annual, FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1, hit the stands. The issue contained a double-length new story featuring the **Fantastic Four** vs. the **Sub-Mariner**, a reprint of the FF's origin, and a number of special features about the FF, their powers, and their foes. FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1 was so well-received that it started a trend; soon, almost every major Marvel series had an annual of its own.

The Silver Surfer soars into trouble in the WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL

Readers could always be certain of finding special tales in Marvel annuals, but just what those stories would be tended to be more of a surprise. In AVENGERS ANNUAL #1, there was a massive team-up of everyone who'd ever been an Avenger. #2, on the other hand, featured a battle between the then-current Avengers and the original team! FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3 revolved around the wedding of **Reed Richards** and **Sue Storm** (amidst a battle involving just about every hero and villain in the Marvel Universe!). Three years later, in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #6, their son **Franklin** was born.

While the contents of any given annual were always unpredictable, a common denominator could always be found in the word "special." And that word can certainly be used again, as the upcoming 1987 Marvel annuals follow in this proud tradition. There will be annuals for both Marvel Universe and (for the first time) New Universe series. And in the annuals will be a wedding and the death of a major character.

Some of the most exciting developments of the year are coming up in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21, PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #7, and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2. The wall-crawler turns 25 this year, and Spider-Editor **Jim Salicrup** is determined to celebrate **Spider-Man's** anniversary in style!

One of the highlights of Spidey's anniversary year comes in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21 with the long-awaited wedding of **Peter Parker** and **Mary Jane Watson**! Marvel's head honcho, **Stan Lee**, sprung the happy news at a convention last year and revealed that the June event will appear simultaneously in both the newspaper strip which Stan writes and the ANNUAL! Editor Jim Salicrup doesn't want to give away too much about the story, but he revealed that the ANNUAL is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**, and that it features "lots of surprises!"

Peter and Mary Jane's wedding isn't the only long-awaited story coming in 1987, though. Back in 1968, Spider-Man starred in two issues of a giant-size magazine called THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (no relation to the later comic book series). A third issue was planned but never published, leaving all those who'd read #2's "Next: The TV Terror!" blurb hanging in suspense.. Even though Stan Lee had written "The TV Terror," **Marie Severin** had penciled half of the 40-page story, and **John Romita Sr.** plan-

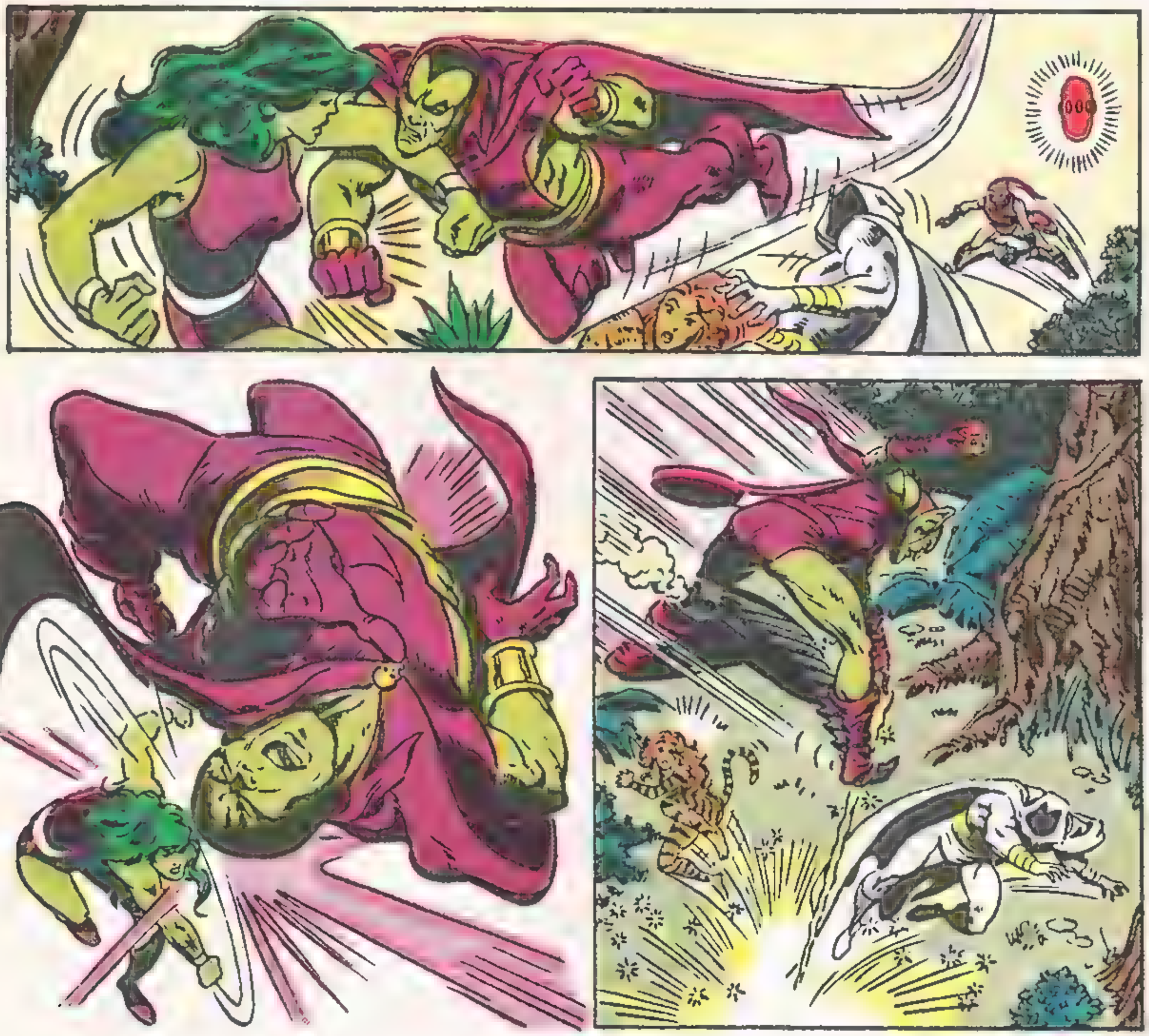
ned to ink it, the cancellation of THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN caused the half-finished story to be stored away and forgotten.

Until now.

When "The TV Terror" was recently unearthed in Marvel's warehouse, Jim Salicrup decided to print it in the 1987 PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL! He got the original creative team of Stan, Marie, and John together and offered them the chance to finish the tale that they began 'way back in '68! "It's going to be THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #3, exactly as it was meant to be!" Jim says. And that means that it's going to feature Spidey's supporting cast from 1968 as well—even those characters such as **Gwen Stacey** and her father, **Captain George Stacey**, who've died between 1968 and 1987! The story revolves around Spider-Man's battle with a never-before-seen villain called the **Stalker**. Still, the Stalker may look somewhat familiar to long-time Spider-Readers; since this story was never printed, the Stalker's costume later served as the basis for the **Prowler** in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #78.

Rounding out the 1987 Spider-Man annuals is the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3 which Jim describes as "a Spider-Man Universe book." In the tradition of the back-up features of the 1960's Marvel annuals, the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL focuses on the web-slinger's friends, foes, and supporting cast. There's no story in the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, but there is inside info on just about everyone who plays an important role in the life of your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! Like THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE series, the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL is being put together by a horde of your favorite artists. It's a must for anyone who follows Spidey's adventures!

All in all, it looks like a banner year for Spider-Man. But that doesn't mean that there aren't major events in the works for other annuals, such as THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #16 and WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #2, as well. Like last year, these two annuals make up a single, epic-length story involving all of **the Avengers** from both teams. The whole thing begins in the WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL, produced by the regular WEST COAST AVENGERS creative team of scripter **Steve Englehart** and penciler **Al Milgrom** (who may also handle the inks on it, too). **The Silver Surfer** makes a guest appearance and winds up being the catalyst which causes the entire East Coast Avengers team to be killed! To save them, **the West Coast Avengers** must travel into a Death Dimension, but once there, they discover that they have to fight their East Coast comrades! What follows is a battle royale, as the East Coast Avengers battle the West Coast Avengers one-on-one. And Editor **Mark**



The Avengers fight Drax the Destroyer, the Green Goblin, and a whole lot more heroes and villains in the Death Dimension in THE AVENGERS ANNUAL.

Gruenwald emphasizes that yes, there will be definite winners and losers. So if you ever wanted to know just which Avengers were the most powerful, here's your chance!

Next, the story moves to the AVENGERS ANNUAL, written by **Tom DeFalco** with chapters penciled by a multitude of Marvel's top artists, including THOR's **Ron Frenz**, SWORD OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS co-creator and X-FACTOR penciler **Jackson Guice**, **John Romita Jr.** of X-MEN and STAR BRAND fame, and fan favorite and SILVER SURFER penciler **Marshall Rogers**. Among the inkers working on the AVENGERS ANNUAL are regular AVENGERS inker **Tom Palmer** and X-FACTOR co-creator **Bob Layton**. As the story opens, the fight among the Avengers is over, but they're not out of the fire yet! Life bombs have been planted in the Death Dimension, and if they explode, they will introduce life into the Death Dimension and cause a rift which will reach all the way into the dimension of the living. The Avengers have to keep the bombs from detonating, but that's not an easy task considering that quite a few dead villains occupy the Death Dimension as well! The Avengers have to battle, as Editor Mark Gruenwald said, ". . . all your favorite dead characters," which include the likes of **Death-Adder** and even **Dracula**, in order to save the universe and return to life themselves!

While the AVENGERS and WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUALS fill their pages with a multitude of heroes, the ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL #2 will be doing just the opposite, thanks to regular ALPHA FLIGHT scripter **Bill Mantlo**. The ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL focuses on just one character, **Heather MacDonald** a.k.a. **Vindicator**. As the ANNUAL's editor, **Carl Potts**, explains, "Vindicator's been wondering if she'd be as good a leader without her battle suit." She gets the chance to test her ability without the suit when, suffering from amnesia, she crashes in one of the small remaining pockets of **Ka-Zar's** Savage Land. Her battle suit in ruins, Vindicator has only her wits to rely on if she wants to survive the prehistoric perils that fill the Savage Land!

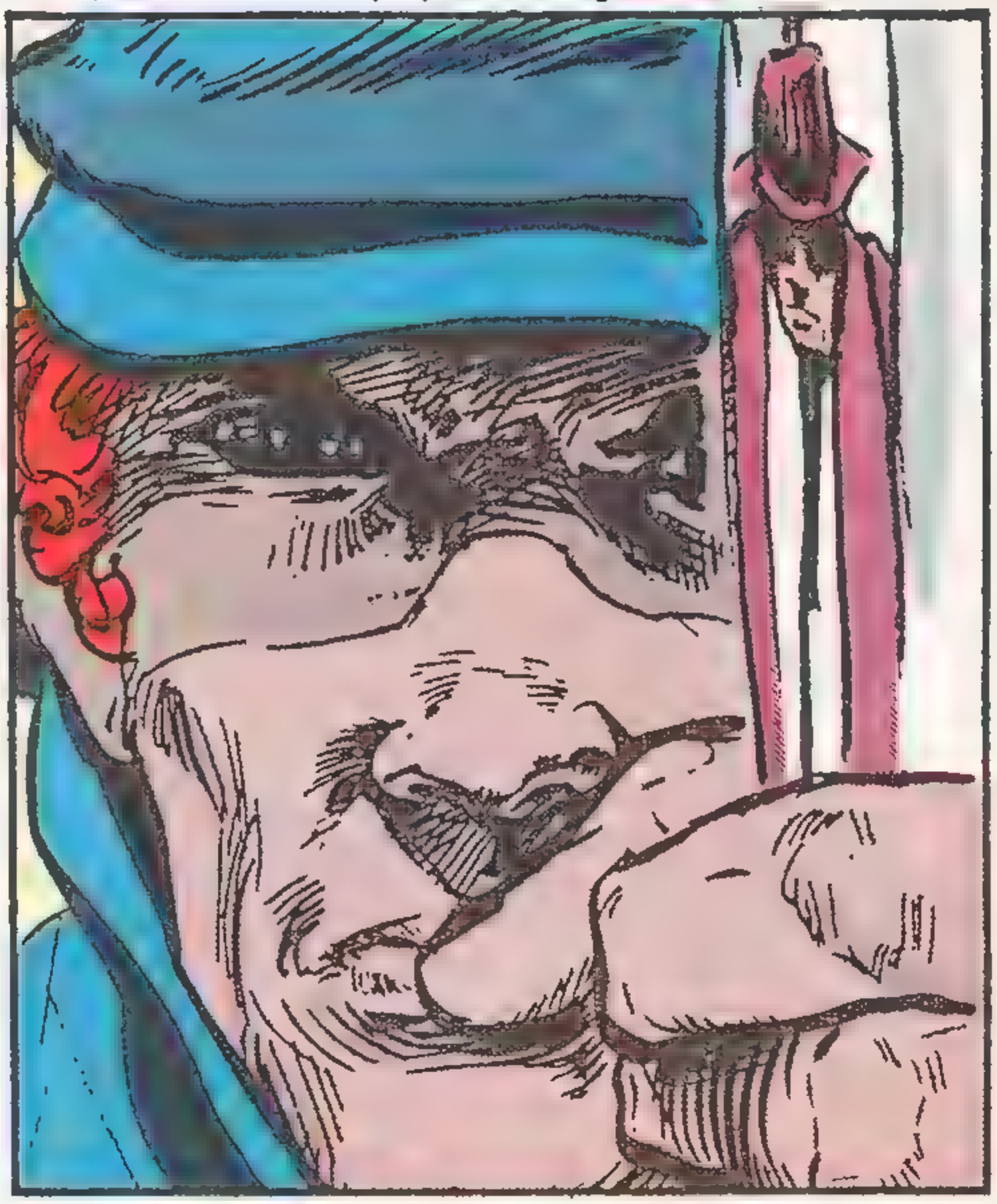
The old and the new are the themes of IRON MAN ANNUAL #7. Scripted by co-plotter **David Michelinie** and inked by co-plotter **Bob Layton** the ANNUAL is being penciled by another old hand at IRON MAN, **Mark Bright**. It features the return of **the Sunturion**, the man made of microwaves. But it may also be the last Sunturion story, as it introduces the heir to the Sunturion's powers: a new heroine called **Stratosfire**!

Another old villain returns in FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #20—but with a twist. As you may already know, every year, **Dr. Doom** battles the forces of the Netherworld in an attempt to free his mother's soul. Thanks to new FF scripter Steve Englehart, however, this year's attempt is a little different. Doom kidnaps **Franklin Richards** to use his latent mental powers in this year's battle. But complications arise, largely because of something that Doom himself did a while back. In case he was ever killed in battle, Doom implanted his thoughts and memories in the mind of a young Latverian boy named **Kristoff**. But that plan backfires now, as Kristoff (thinking he's Doom) fights Doom for control of Franklin so that *he* can use Franklin's power to free "his" mother!

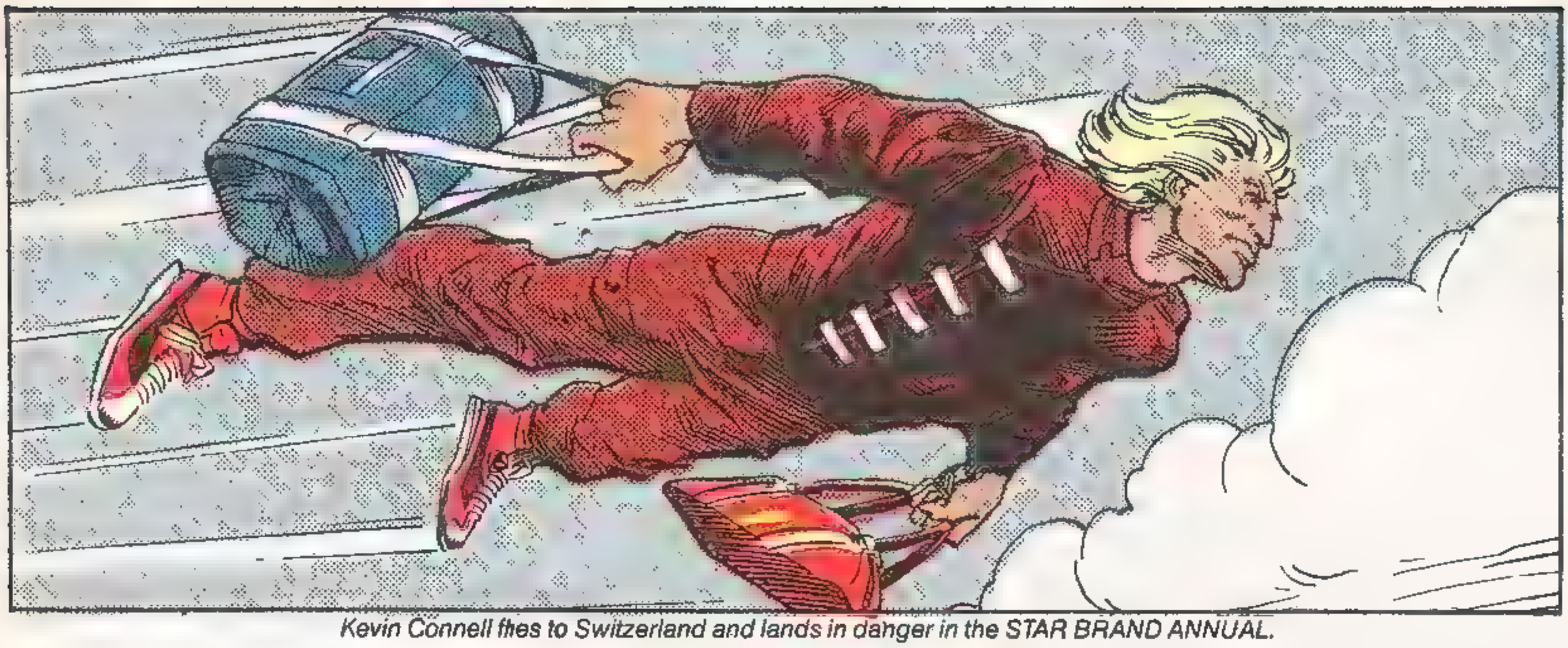
It certainly looks like Franklin's going to be getting around in 1987. Not only does he wind up in Latveria in the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL, but he travels even farther in X-FACTOR ANNUAL #2, which guest-stars Franklin and his pals from **Power Pack**! Writer **Jo Duffy** (of FALLEN ANGELS fame) and artist **Tom Grindberg** guide **X-Factor** through their paces as they and Franklin head for . . . the Moon! When Franklin is kidnaped along the way, X-Factor sets out to find him. And considering how many Marvel characters live on (or at least visit) the Moon these days, you know that one or two familiar faces are bound to pop up!

Meanwhile, back on Earth, scripter **Chris Claremont**, penciler **Alan Davis**, and inker **Paul Neary** present X-MEN ANNUAL #11. Entitled "A Universe For Me Or The Lord Of The Dance," the X-MEN ANNUAL depicts an epic struggle between the malevolent forces of **the Technet** and **the Horde**. Each group is desperately trying to gain control of the Crystal of Ultimate Vision, which gives its wielder unlimited power. By the time the dust clears, the Crystal has fallen into the hands of none other than **Wolverine**! The Crystal's power provides an enormous temptation, especially for someone who's been having as many problems as Wolverine and **the X-Men** have. And that leads to the question: Will Wolverine use the Crystal to reshape the universe in his own image? Only Chris Claremont, Alan Davis, and Paul Neary know for sure!

Chris, Alan, and Paul team up again for the NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3, "Anything You Can Do." In sharp contrast to the deep, serious issues confronted in the X-MEN ANNUAL, the NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL promises to provide non-stop fun from cover to cover! It features a knock-down, drag-out fight between **Warlock** and that



Stalker finds himself being followed. The astonishing reason why is revealed in the PSI FORCE ANNUAL.



Kevin Connell flies to Switzerland and lands in danger in the STAR BRAND ANNUAL.

mischievous shape-changer from the pages of THE FANTASTIC FOUR, **the Impossible Man**! And when two fun-loving metamorphs clash, the results are bound to be unusual, to say the least! By the time the fight ends, it's gone from being the Impossible Man vs. Warlock to being **the Thing** vs. **the Hulk** to **Rambo** vs. **Cobra** to **Godzilla** vs. a **Shogun Warrior**! The NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL looks like fun and fireworks aplenty, so this is one comic book you're not going to want to miss!

As though these annuals weren't enough, 1987 also marks the debut of a brand new line of annuals for a bunch of Marvel's New Universe titles! In the forefront is the first-ever annual for the New Universe's flagship title, STAR BRAND. STAR BRAND ANNUAL #1 is brought to you by scripter **Bobbie Chase**, penciler **Geof Isherwood**, and inker **Art Nichols**. It places the possessor of the Star Brand, **Ken Connell**, in the midst of what Bobbie Chase calls "the ultimate conflict"—a no-win situation where using the power of the Starbrand could cause the death of a person Ken loves! Caught in the middle of love, jealousy, espionage, and murder in the Swiss Alps, Ken learns to be careful, because sometimes, your best friend could turn out to be your worst enemy!

Of course, betrayal is nothing new to the stars of D.P. 7; betrayal is the reason they've been on the run so long. The first D.P. 7 ANNUAL, by D.P. 7 creators **Mark Gruenwald** (scripter) and **Paul Ryan** (penciler), introduces a brand new character . . . but is the new character a hero or a villain? "The D.P. 7 ANNUAL introduces the weirdest paranormal of all—**Witness**, who witnessed the exact moments that each of **D.P. 7** first manifested their powers," says Mark Gruenwald. Each of those moments will be recounted in the D.P. 7 ANNUAL, so that the ANNUAL will contain not only an all-new story, but also untold tales of the characters' individual pasts.

Writer **Danny Fingerouth** and artist **Mark Texeira** give insight into some other characters' pasts in PSI-FORCE ANNUAL #1. As the ANNUAL's editor **Bob Budiansky** explains, "We'll find out what happened to each of the Psi-Force kids on the day of the White Event." But the PSI-FORCE ANNUAL doesn't stop there! A sixth paranormal, **Thomas Boyd** (alias **Stalker**), joins **Psi-Force**. And that means that one of the original team has to leave! By the end of the ANNUAL, one of the team actually does leave. Which one will it be? That would be telling.

While many of the New Universe characters review their origins, however, the career of one New Universe star will come to an end. MERC ANNUAL #1 features the death of none other than the series' star, **Marc Hazzard**! That might seem to be the end of the series, but MERC editor **Larry Hama** explains that beginning with the MERC ANNUAL, a new mercenary will take Marc's place as the star of MERC! Larry says, "The new Merc will be bigger, meaner . . . " " . . . And better-looking!" adds assistant editor **Pat Redding**. Larry stresses that after the ANNUAL, MERC will become more action-oriented, and the new Merc "won't be saddled with a wife and kid." Actually, the new Merc will be turning up in the regular MERC series before the MERC ANNUAL hits the stands. But you'll still have to check the ANNUAL to see if you were able to pick him out of MERC's enormous supporting cast correctly.

The MERC ANNUAL is the work of scripter **Doug Murray** (who's recently been getting nationwide attention for his fine work on THE 'NAM), penciler **Vincent Waller** (a noted contributor to SAVAGE TALES), and **Mike Zeck**, who turns to inking after penciling series such as the PUNISHER Limited Series, MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS, and the special six-part Spider-Man saga.

Speaking of characters who are destined to die, there's no annual scheduled for those "who are about to die," the cast of STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI. But as editor **Carl Potts** reveals, that's not going to stop them! The regular STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI team of writer **Peter B. Gillis**, penciler **Brent Anderson**, and inker **Scott Williams** is turning STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #13 into an unofficial STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI ANNUAL #1! STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #13 contains everything that an annual would. It's got a double-length story in which the third-generation Morituri team has to battle the two teams which came before. It's got back-up features which provide details and inside information on the Morituri Universe. And like Marvel's annuals of the 1960's, it's got a short, funny story "explaining" how STRIKEFORCE MORITURI is put together each month, done in the style of the '60's Marvel humor series NOT BRAND ECCH.

Whew! Keeping up with all of the annuals coming out in 1987 is going to be hard enough, but keeping up with all of Marvel's regular series, Limited Series, and Graphic Novels as well is going to be murder! Don't worry, though; help's coming in the form of MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #3. The MARVEL AGE ANNUAL contains the helpful features you've come to expect, including "Marvel A to Z," our brief rundown on all of Marvel's plans for the coming year. There are also the usual special preview pages written and drawn by some of Marvel's top talent which will give additional tastes of things to come. Not only that, but there'll be a selection of surprises that are sure to tickle every fancy!

Well, it looks like 1987 is going to be yet another great year for Marvel annuals! Be careful not to miss a single one of them. After all, annuals only come once a year!

—Sholly Fisch

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

Word has gotten out among my friends that I'm now the triviameister, as it were, for Marvel Comics, and while they're glad for me, there's one question that often recurs when we talk about these quizzes. "What do we get if we get all the questions right?"

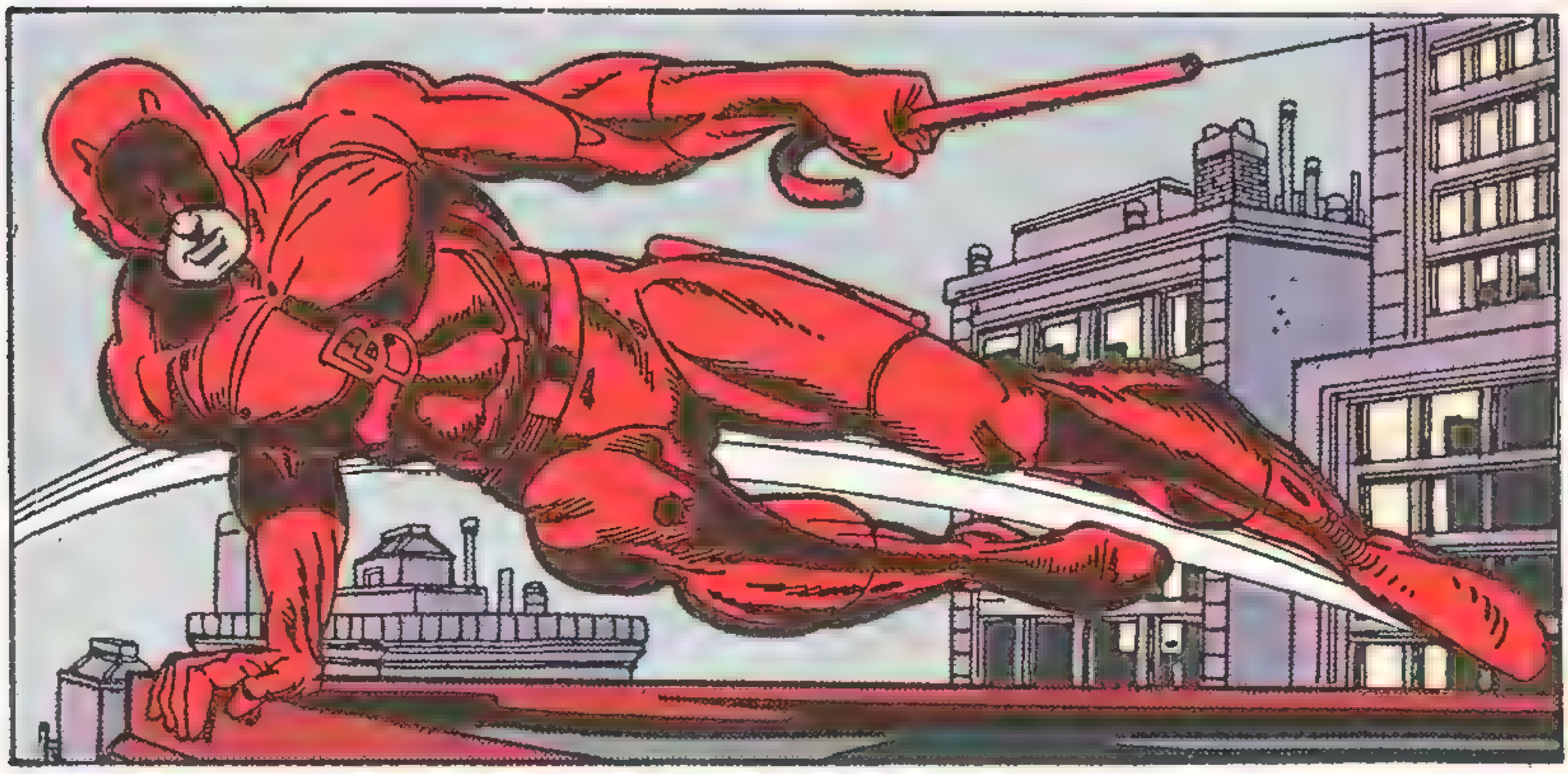
Gee, guys, it's a quiz, not a contest. I can offer you the satisfaction of knowing that, if you get all the questions right, you have just as much (if not more) useless information right at your fingertips as I do. Or the pleasure of the knowledge that, should I get hit by a truck, you could take over this column yourself. (Maybe I should make sure my life insurance is paid up before I go making such offers.)

But what do you think? Should it be a contest? Rather than printing the answers elsewhere in this ish, as we do this month and every month, should we invite you to mail in answers, and the first person to mail in all twenty correct answers will receive some fabulous prize, like one of **Jim Salicrup's** baby pictures? Or should we retain the instant gratification system we've been operating so far?

Drop us a line and let us know—and while you're at it, size up the Mighty Marvel Trivia Quiz in general. Are the questions too easy? Too hard? We want to hear your reactions. In the meantime, test yourself against this month's Big Twenty. The topic is **Daredevil**, one of Marvel's oldest and most popular heroes: his life, his friends, his foes. Questions begin with the most recent facts and range backward through the annals of Hornhead Lore. And you can find the answers on page 32. So, what are you waiting for?

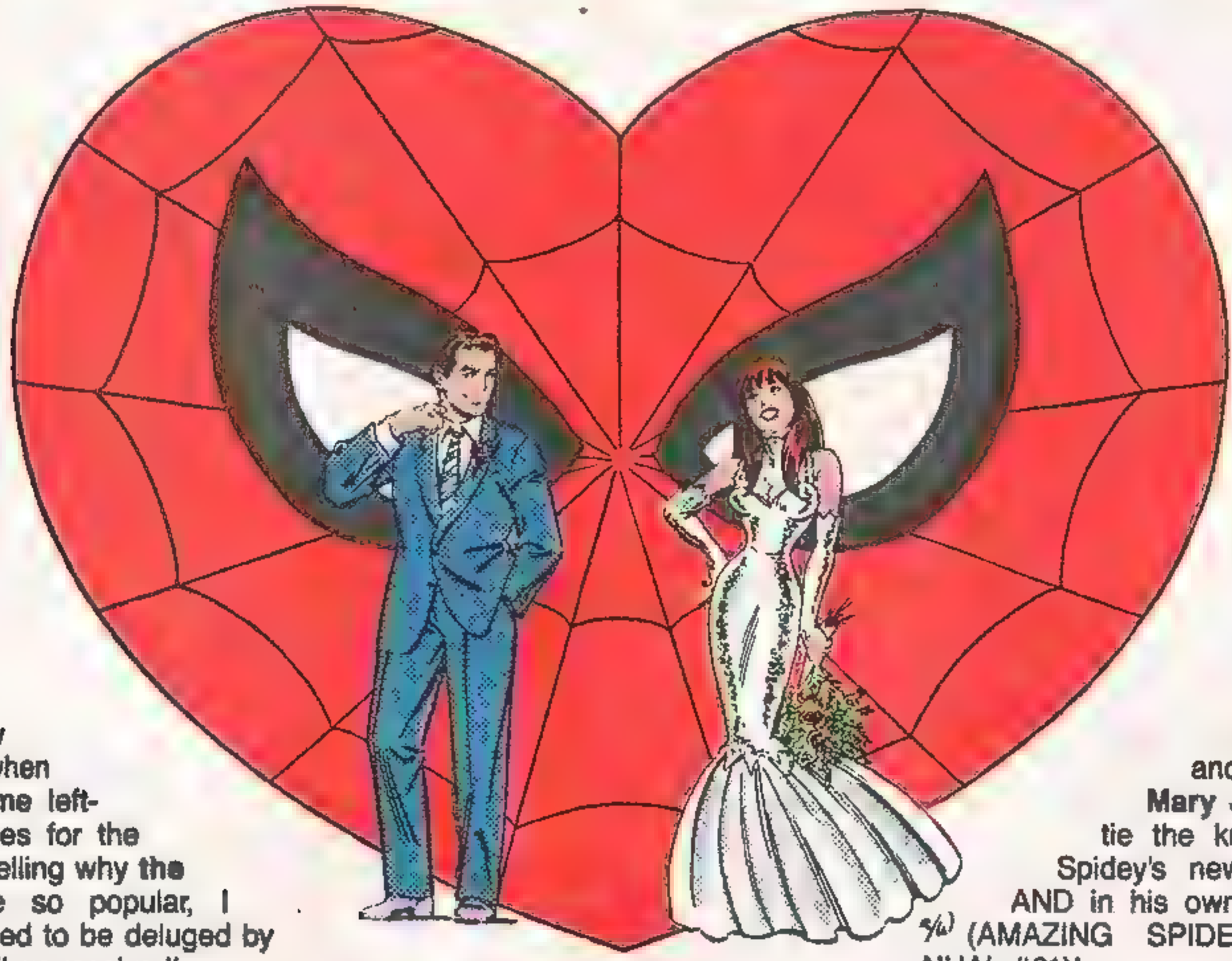
—Brian Nelson

1. What New Jersey town did **Matt Murdock** visit as "the stranger"?
2. What husband and wife were coerced by **the Kingpin** into assisting the recovery of his wife **Vanessa**?
3. Which woman has Matt Murdock never seen—that's right, *seen*—**Glori O'Breen**, **Heather Glenn**, or **Natasha**?
4. What actor did **the Jester** replace to play **Cyrano**?
5. Who designed the house Daredevil entered on "The deadliest night of his life"?
6. What weapon disabled **Elektra** enough for **Bullseye** to deliver the killing stroke?
7. Who was the Kingpin's candidate for mayor?
8. Who was **the Gladiator's** parole officer?
9. What lady-killing hero debuted in DAREDEVIL #150?
10. In what game did Daredevil defeat **the Grandmaster**?
11. Who was the cop who befriended Matt and 'Tasha in San Francisco?
12. What long-haired villain premiered in DAREDEVIL #100?
13. What street gang did DD and **T'Challa** put away?
14. What was the name of **Karen Page's** first film to hit the movie theaters?
15. How many **Torpedoes** have flown through the pages of DAREDEVIL?
16. The father of one of Matt's many flames was also the man who perfected the cobalt bomb; can you name him?
17. Who was **Nelson** and Murdock's first super-heroic client?
18. He battled **the Cat** in her second issue, but debuted against DD in his third; who is he?
19. Where did Matt receive his legal degree?
20. What was Matt's father's name in the ring?



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Mary Jane Watson's wedding dress designed by Willi Smith of WilliWear.



Wow! A few issues back, when I offered some left-over No-Prizes for the best letters telling why **the X-Men** were so popular, I never expected to be deluged by the ton of mail we received!

All I can say is, our meritorious Marvel No-Prizes must be the most sought-after artifacts next to **Aunt May's** recipe for chicken noodle soup!

Well, all the answers were so ingenious and so well thought out that there's only one way to distribute the notorious No-Prizes in a fair and equitable manner. We'll simply award them to EVERYONE who took pen in hand (or typewriter, or pencil, or even crayon) and bombarded us with enough mail to make my eye doctor thank you for all the money I had to spend at his office last month!

And, to demonstrate even more of the legendary Lee generosity, I'll now print the names of the writers of the first twenty-five letters we received. (See? Promptness pays! Also, this is a terrific, albeit sneaky way for me to fill up a lot of space without having to think of anything to write!)

Okay, here are the fortunate frantic ones who have been so fortuitously favored by the fickle hand of fate . . .

Mark Gilson, Ryan Vincent, Bob Nolan, Adam Grabinski, Charles McPhearson, Kyle J. Bertelsen, Chris Kleman, Padraic Healy, Leoney Berg, Matthew Ludwick, Jeremy Heier, Jason Rico, Russell M (no last name), **Brian Albertson, Lorl Anderson, Jeffrey Thompson, Jeff Burke, Alex Pogel, Dana Dixon, Jeremy Augenstein, Todd Sullivan, Valerie Rappeneeber, Andrew Vernon, Sylvain Zimmer,** and **Adrianne Cook.**

As for all you others, we applaud you, too. Stand tall and proud, No-Prize laureates! You know who you are!

But, the time has come to end the suspense. I know you're all wondering what the letters said. What is it that all of Marveldom Assembled finds so wondrous about the X-Men? Well, here it is—the consensus of opinion, all summed up in one meaningful little word . . .

Characterization!

That's right, almost every letter praised the clever and realistic characterization which sets the X-Men apart and which makes it must reading for more comic book fans than any other title.

And speaking of characterization—the most popular character in all of comicdom is about to be married! Yep, **Spider-Man** is giving up his bachelor life when he and gorgeous **Mary Jane Watson** tie the knot BOTH in Spidey's newspaper strip AND in his own comic book (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21)!

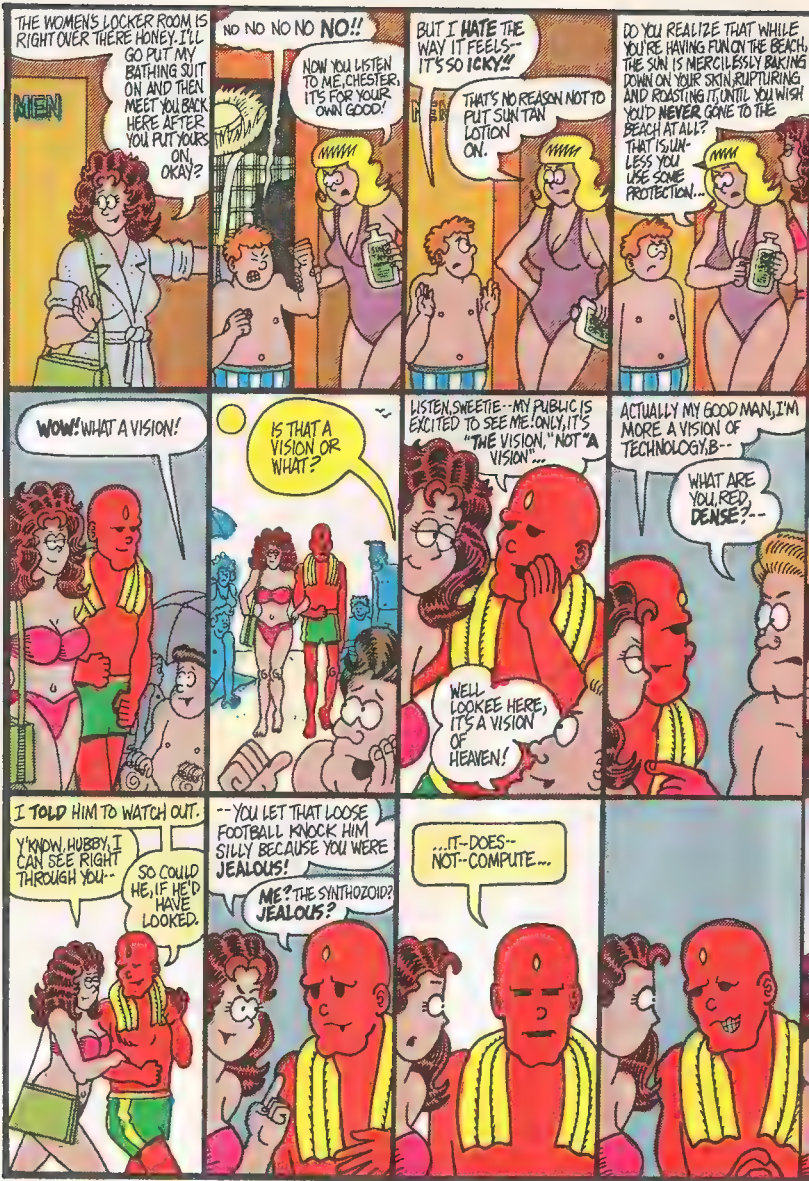
Nothing like this has ever been done before! (No, you foolish person, we don't mean nobody's ever gotten married before! We mean no wedding has ever been shown in a newspaper strip AND a comic book at the very same time!) How do we do it? With great difficulty! Why do we do it? To prove how clever we are! When do we do it? In June of this year!

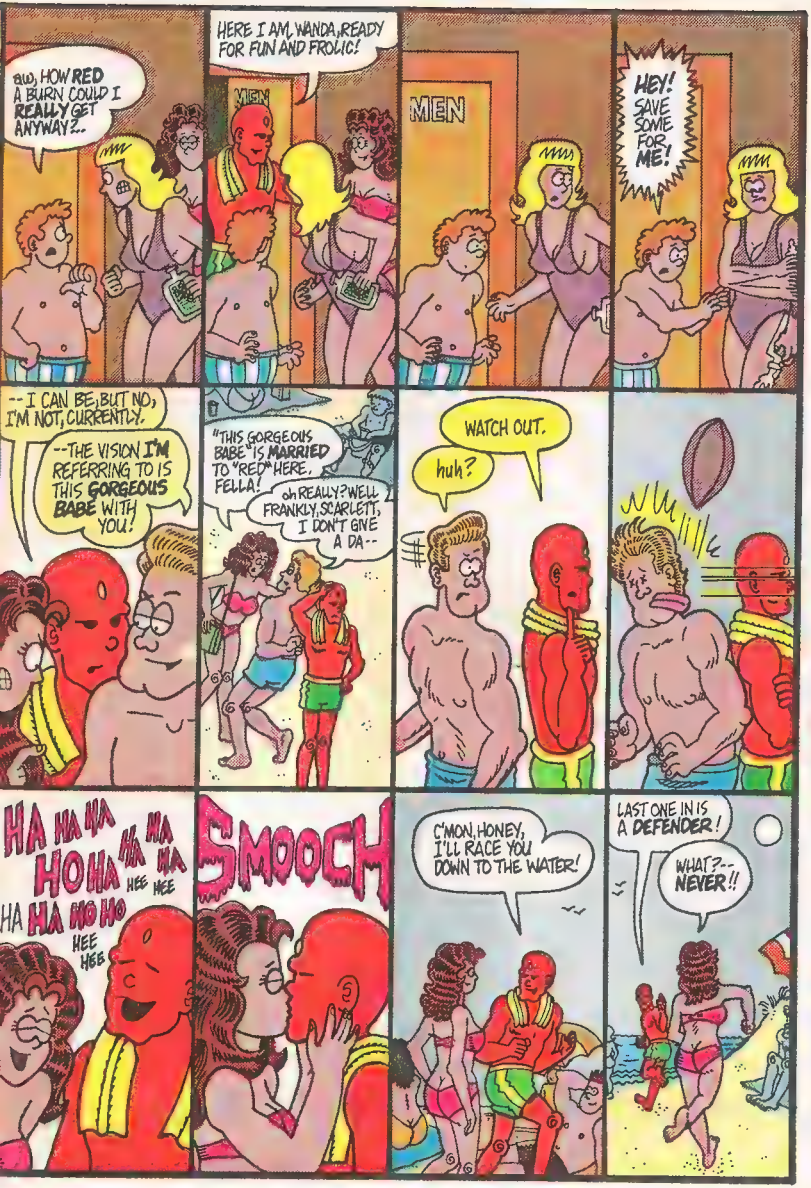
So don't dare miss THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21 on sale on June, or the June installments of the Spider-Man newspaper strip which appears in more than 500 papers throughout the world. No, no, no, **Irving Forbush!** You don't have to buy all 500 of them—the one on sale in your town is quite enough! Sheeesh!

Well, that's it for now. But before we tearfully take our leave, be sure to ask yourself this burning question—have you hugged your neighborhood mutant today?

Excelsior!

Stan


THE WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM IS RIGHT OVER THERE HONEY. I'LL GO PUT MY BATHING SUIT ON AND THEN MEET YOU BACK HERE AFTER YOU PUT YOURS ON, OKAY?
MEN
NO NO NO NO NO!!
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, CHESTER, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
BUT I HATE THE WAY IT FEELS-- IT'S SO ICKY!!
THAT'S NO REASON NOT TO PUT SUN TAN LOTION ON.
DO YOU REALIZE THAT WHILE YOU'RE HAVING FUN ON THE BEACH, THE SUN IS MERCILESSLY BAKING DOWN ON YOUR SKIN, RUPTURING AND ROASTING IT, UNTIL YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER GONE TO THE BEACH AT ALL? THAT IS, UNLESS YOU USE SOME PROTECTION...
WOW! WHAT A VISION!
IS THAT A VISION OR WHAT?
LISTEN, SWEETIE--MY PUBLIC IS EXCITED TO SEE ME! ONLY, IT'S "THE VISION," "NOT" "A VISION"...
WELL LOOKEE HERE, IT'S A VISION OF HEAVEN!
ACTUALLY MY GOOD MAN, I'M MORE A VISION OF TECHNOLOGY, B--
WHAT ARE YOU, RED DENSE?--
I TOLD HIM TO WATCH OUT.
Y'KNOW, HUBBY, I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU--
SO COULD HE, IF HE'D HAVE LOOKED.
--YOU LET THAT LOOSE FOOTBALL KNOCK HIM SILLY BECAUSE YOU WERE JEALOUS!
ME? THE SYNTHOZOID? JEALOUS?
...IT--DOES-- NOT--COMPUTE...


aw, HOW RED A BURN COULD I REALLY GET ANYWAY?..
HERE I AM, WANDA, READY FOR FUN AND FROLIC!
MEN
MEN
HEY! SAVE SOME FOR ME!
--I CAN BE, BUT NO, I'M NOT, CURRENTLY.
--THE VISION I'M REFERRING TO IS THIS GORGEOUS BABE WITH YOU!
"THIS GORGEOUS BABE" IS MARRIED TO "RED" HERE, FELLA!
oh REALLY? WELL FRANKLY, SCARLETT, I DON'T GIVE A DA--
WATCH OUT.
huh?
HA HA HA

THE TRANSFORMERS: HEADMASTERS™

HEADMASTERS TM and © 1987 by Hasbro, Inc.

The cover of THE TRANSFORMERS: HEADMASTERS #1.

It seems you'd have to be living in Timbuktu not to know of the galaxy-spanning **Autobot-Decepticon** War unfolding in the pages of THE TRANSFORMERS. In fact, fans of those incredible shape-changing robots have been burying us with letters demanding to know how the epic struggle between the noble Autobots and the evil Decepticons is being waged on other planets. Well now that story can be told . . . in THE HEADMASTERS Limited Series!

Creator and writer of the four issue bi-monthly Limited Series is THE TRANSFORMERS scripter **Bob Budiansky**. Penciling the saga is erstwhile TRANSFORMERS penciler **Frank Springer** and inking the adventures is the regular TRANSFORMERS team of **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. Editor of the series is another man steeped in the lore of the robots from Cybertron, TRANSFORMERS editor **Don Daley**.

As Bob explained, the various Autobots and Decepticons who star in the main series make up only a portion of the Transformers who live on their home world, Cybertron.

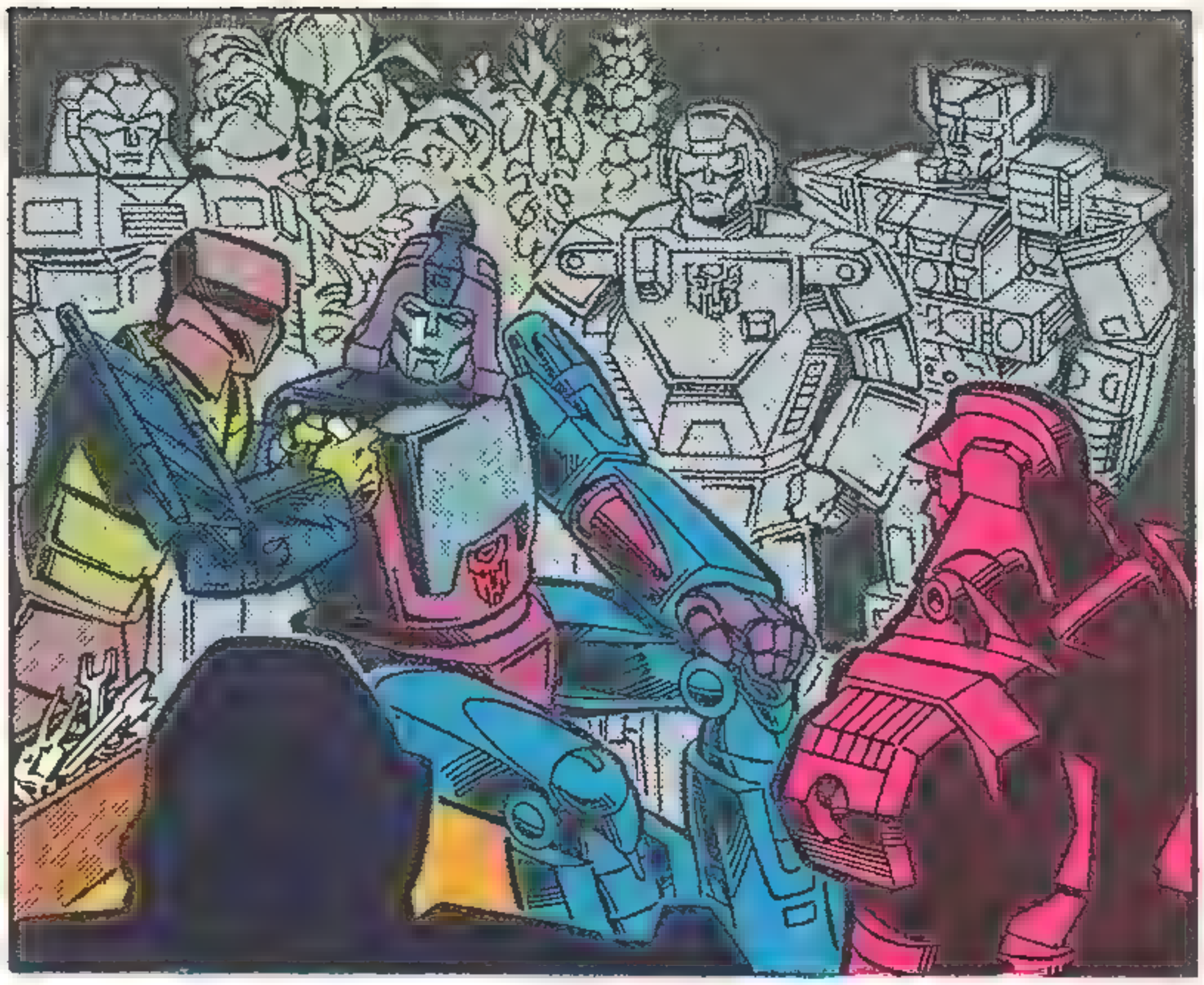
Millions of years ago, the spaceship carrying **Optimus Prime**, **Megatron** and the other robots we're most familiar with crashed on Earth, leaving them inactive until modern times. But what of all the many robots still fighting the vicious civil war for control of Cybertron? It is with these Autobots and Decepticons that the bizarre and tragic origin of **the Headmasters** begins. The Limited Series will also feature the premiere of yet another new group—**the Targetmasters**!

As the robots who landed on Earth lay "comatose," the battle continued for centuries on Cybertron, with neither side gaining a decisive edge in the fierce conflict. HEADMASTERS #1 opens slightly prior to recent events in THE TRANSFORMERS

series; the Cybertron Autobots are celebrating an important victory over the evil Decepticons, but there is one who does not share in the rejoicing. **Fortress Maximus**, one of the Autobot leaders, whom Bob describes as a "very heroic" character, finds it difficult to be anything but solemn. He knows that many more battles remain before the civil war can finally end.

Fortress, while scanning the star systems beyond Cybertron, detects a previously unknown planet. Acting under the possibility that something on this world could aid them against the Decepticons, Fortress and a group of Autobots travel to the mysterious planet. The native, humanoid inhabitants refer to their home as Nebulos, and for many centuries have led a completely peaceful existence, having long ago rejected the violent ways of their ancestors. Unfortunately, Budiansky says, the Nebulons view the Autobots as a threat to that peace. (How would you feel if a squad of giant robots moved into your neighborhood?)

A Nebulon leader named **Galen** urges his people to maintain a calm attitude, but others, goaded on by the fiendish **Lord Zarak**, "dust off the weapons which they haven't used for thousands of years," Budiansky says.



Fortress Maximus, bravely trying to preserve the peaceful intent of the Autobot mission, makes an amazing sacrifice. As proof of their intentions, Fortress and five other Autobots remove their heads (!) and leave their inactive bodies for the Nebulons to do with as they will. The crisis is apparently over, right? Wrong!

Seeing the appearance of the Autobots as an opportunity to gain power, Lord Zarak manages to contact Cybertron, and he enters an alliance with the chief Decepticon, **Scorponok**. The Decepticons then launch a massive attack on Nebulos. Desperate, some Nebulons go inside the bodies of the sacrificed Autobots, but their merely-human reflexes can't operate the weaponry quickly enough to hold back the threat of Scorponok.

The Nebulons then find a solution: A number of them undergo a strange bioengineering process that enables them to transform! With the minds of the original Autobots linked to their own brains, these Nebulons shapeshift into the new operators of the robot bodies. The Headmasters are born! Galen himself is computer-linked with the mind of Fortress Maximus and becomes the Headmaster in command of Fortress's body.

As the battle progresses, some of the Nebulon weapons are converted into sentient robots—the Targetmasters! Headmasters and Targetmasters are developed on both sides during the escalating war, and it is here that the tragedy of the tale lies. Budiansky says that Fortress had visited the once-peaceful world with the hope of ending the civil war on Cybertron, but instead, he only succeeded in bringing that seemingly unending battle to Nebulos.

The four-part HEADMASTERS Limited Series concludes with a special surprise. Without revealing any specific details, it can be suggested that interested readers check out events in THE TRANSFORMERS monthly comic after the final issue of THE HEADMASTERS reaches the stands in September.

The excitement begins with THE HEADMASTERS Limited Series in March! Master the possibilities! (OW! Okay, I'm sorry!)

—Ken Hart

EMPEROR DOOM™

Sometimes in this confusing world of ours wishes are granted and dreams really do come true. But one man's dream can be another's nightmare—especially if the dreamer is **Doctor Victor Von Doom**. This theme is explored in EMPEROR DOOM, the upcoming Graphic Novel by writer **David Michelinie** and artist **Bob Hall**. Dreams, nightmares, and dark longings are realized in horrifying clarity as Doom's ultimate goal finally comes to pass in a tale of power and conquest.

David Michelinie, whose IRON MAN stories highlight his long-time career at Marvel, has put together an intricate plot of clashing wills and subdued masses. Bob Hall, best known for his ability to draw every Marvel character (his work was most recently seen in PSI FORCE), has produced both the pencils and inks in this tale that lets him exercise his talent to its fullest. Overseeing the Graphic Novel is Spider-Man and MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE editor **Jim Salicrup**

The story starts in the South Pacific. **Kilgrave the Purple Man**, the villain with the ability to sap people's wills and then command them with a simple suggestion, enjoys the warm breezes on the island of Papeete. He has the local mayor and general waiting on him hand and foot when a dark shadow falls across the sparkling sand. The shadow belongs to Doctor Victor Von Doom, ruler of Latveria and arch-enemy of **the Fantastic Four**. When Kilgrave orders him to go away, the first clash of wills is decided quickly. An astonished Purple Man can only gape as Doom says, "No."

From that opening segment to the thought-provoking conclusion, EMPEROR DOOM is a fast-paced, guest-star-filled fable that shows *having* isn't always the same as *wanting*. Using the Purple Man to power a giant psycho-prism, Doom plans to sap the will of the entire world and finally realize his dream. If all goes well he will rule not only the tiny nation of Latveria, but the entire world!

Only four beings stand in Doctor Doom's path. But he will not allow these heroes to deprive the world of his glorious reign. Before he can activate the psycho-prism he must remove **Namor the Sub-Mariner, the Vision**, **Machine Man**, and **Ultron** from the scene. The Sub-Mariner, prince of the undersea kingdom of Atlantis, has a strength of will that rivals that of Doom himself. Doom's plan involves teaming up with the stubborn and powerful Namor, offering him rule of all the seas while the surface world belongs to Doom.

"With the full power of the Purple Man at my command," Doom explains to the Sub-Mariner, "I can convince the people of this sad planet that Victor Von Doom is the only logical person —to rule the entire world!"

The three mechanicals are not affected by the chemical-induced effects of the psycho-prism. But Doom creates small discs that, when placed on the mechanicals' persons, alter their input circuits enough to make them susceptible to the prism's influence. All Namor needs do is agree to find the three and place these tiny, self-adhesive discs on them.

As the story unfolds, **the Avengers** are drawn into the intrigue. Both East and West Coast groups find themselves involved when the Vision falls to Doom's will. But **the West Coast Avengers**, currently short-handed, cannot stand against Doom's forces and the power of the psycho-prism. From that point on, it is an easy matter for Doom to convince the United Nations to elect him Emperor of the Earth!

In the days that follow, Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan, deserts bloom in Ethiopia thanks to an influx of modern technology, the stock market booms, and armies disband. And all because of one man—Doctor Doom. Even the trains run on time under his rule.

But Doom forgot about one person, one wild card that is immune to the effects of the psycho-prism for exactly the same reasons as the mechanicals. This person neither has to eat or breathe. In fact, his body and metabolism are completely different from that of a human being. But even so, what can one man do against an entire world that believes Doom to be its savior? And even if he can figure out a way to reverse the sapping powers of the psycho-prism, should he? Everywhere he looks, the world has become a better place. There is no crime, no poverty, no famine. War has been abolished. Resources are being fairly distributed for the first time in history. What will the future say if this one resistor to Doom's rule destroys all the good that has come from it, even if he does so to save some fragile concept called freedom? Who is this being? The answer to that question is one of the crucial revelations of the saga!

As mentioned earlier, this tale is filled with guest stars. Among them are **Hawkeye, the Wasp, Iron Man, Wonder Man, Power Man, the Hulk, Starfox, the Scarlet Witch, Mockingbird**, and **Tigra**. Yet, despite all the power of these mighty super heroes, the future of a free world depends on the actions of one man. But does this one man have what it takes to pit his will against that of Doctor Victor Von Doom? Does he have within him the strength of a hero? The answer to these questions are found only in EMPEROR DOOM on sale now!

—*Bill Slavicsek*

EPIC® SPOTLIGHT

VIDEO JACK

This summer all the vitality, diversity, and pizzazz of cable television and the video craze come alive on the comic book page in Epic Comics's VIDEO JACK!

Co-created by writer **Cary Bates** and artist **Keith Giffen**, VIDEO JACK is an amazing allegory of visual magic and modern fantasy. Imagine a small town with the power to transform itself into any television series ever broadcast, to take on the aspects of a music video, to boldly go where no town has gone before. By virtue of this incredible power, VIDEO JACK is a series with continuing characters but ever-changing settings. Every issue will be new, exciting, different—yet all your favorite characters remain, no matter what the town metamorphoses into next!

The title character, **Jack**, is an ordinary kid whose major interest is television. He lives in a small, peaceful town which, until recently, has been untouched by the decadent and dangerous 1980s. But little by little the modern world creeps in, ruining the idyllic setting. One resident of the town finds this appalling. He creates a device that combines science and magic to form a protective bubble that promises to keep the town safe. But before he is ready to engage the amazing device, Jack and his best friend accidentally trigger it, transporting everything into a strange, yet oddly familiar, world.

"They're transported into a video version of our world where people are reproduced in the exact image of their real-world selves," explained artist and co-creator Keith Giffen. "But in this new world their inner selves aren't hidden, there are no masks." Whatever fantasies and self-images the townsfolk have show up in their video personas.

Because the device is somehow tied into the town's satellite television connection, any setting ever broadcast—from MTV to Mayberry to Gilligan's Island—is a potential backdrop for the town. And no matter what video realm they find themselves in, the town is still there—people, buildings, and all. But the town and townsfolk become a reflection of the video setting. In one such realm the milkman may be Hawkeye Pierce and the librarian Hot Lips Houlihan as the Korean war rages around them. In another they may be gangsters in a world patterned after television's version of Chicago, circa 1920. Only Jack and his best friend, who caused the world

Video Jack and his dog.

VIDEO JACK © 1987 by Cary Bates and Keith Giffen.

Left: A villager in one of the video worlds.
Below: Damon, the villain in VIDEO JACK.

switch by accidentally triggering the device, retain their original memories as the town flips from setting to setting in the video realm.

"As odd as it may sound, the town is actually the true star of the series," writer and co-creator Cary Bates said. "It goes through a metamorphosis. Jack is our main character, our focus, and he's basically a good kid. His best friend is also a focus of the story, and he's not so good. But every character in the town is potentially a continuing character in the series."

Cary explained that Jack is a couch potato, one of those people who love to watch television and spend hours upon hours doing so. He's a sophomore in high school who's quite shy, and because of this he hasn't gotten into the social swing of things.

"Jack has a lot of potential buried within him," Cary said. "He's just not aware of it yet. He knows everything about anything that's ever been on TV —all the old series, every station. But this kind of trivial knowledge has been useless in his everyday high school life. But what happens in the course of the series makes that knowledge very, very valuable. In fact, Jack becomes the most knowledgeable and perhaps the most important person once the metamorphosis affects the town. Suddenly meaningless trivia transforms into vital information."

"VIDEO JACK, when you strip away all the extraneous stuff, is basically a super hero book about kids," Keith said. "We're talking actual 13–14-year-old teenagers. Video Jack, the hero of the book, is that age, and so is the villain."

Patterned after an actual town, the other star of the series is a typical small town that up to very recently had been insulated from the 1980s. It didn't have to deal with crime, homelessness, hunger, or any of the other blights of modern society. Within recent years, however, these things have started encroaching on the town. It's a response to that that triggers what happens.

"Jack's friend has a grandfather who is a scientist/alchemist. He dabbles with both modern technology and arcane magic," Cary explained. "He comes up with a solution to keep his town insulated from what's going on in the rest of the country. In trying to accomplish this, something else happens and everything goes awry. That's where the metamorphosis kicks in."

"I've been kicking this idea around for a while. When I talked to Keith about it, he liked it and we decided to do it together," Cary said.

"When Cary brought me in, I thought it was an interesting enough idea that I wanted to be involved," Keith explained. "We've expanded it since then, bouncing ideas back and forth and getting more and more excited about the concept. We can run the whole gamut of the video craze,

explore the entire genre. Anything that can be broadcast on TV, we can use. We can click into a current craze and be in the mainstream of events. VIDEO JACK can be almost topical, pouncing on something as it happens."

Although they've never worked together before, Cary and Keith are complementing each other's style nicely. And they're making up for lost time by combining forces to do an upcoming issue of STAR BRAND, in addition to VIDEO JACK. "When I work with someone on a regular book, it always winds up being a game of one-up-manship," Keith explained. "I'll throw in something that the writer doesn't expect, then he'll return the favor, and I'll build on that. It becomes a back and forth, good-natured competition to see who can floor the other guy first. It makes the creative process interesting and keeps us in touch with one another."

VIDEO JACK is a very visual concept, and Keith is having a lot of fun with that aspect of the series. "Each video reality has a totally different feel from the real world. I'm going to try to get that across in the art. We may use different inkers to help accomplish this. When the action is set in the real world, the art will be as representational as possible. But in the video world I'll get more impressionistic. I'll use a style that might push the envelope, so to speak. I want it to be obvious, just by looking at the panel, which world the character is in," Keith explained.

Are Cary and Keith trying to make a statement to the couch potatoes in VIDEO JACK? "I don't think so," Keith said. "I'm plunging ahead for the pure entertainment effect. The story is going to be the most important thing. It's got to stand on its own. That's the primary consideration. Everything else that comes of that is just extra. I'm sure we won't be able to resist throwing in an opinion now and then, but I don't think that should be the thrust of the book. Let people draw their own conclusions."

"We think it's going to be like nothing ever done before," Cary said. "The whole point is to do things you don't see in any other comic book. That's one of the goals we'll try to achieve."

From early indications, it appears that everyone will soon be screaming, "We want our VIDEO JACK!"

But VIDEO JACK isn't the only new series to watch for. Coming this summer from Epic Comics are a number of special books for your reading enjoyment.

Writer **Pat Mills** and artist **Kevin O'Neil** tell the tale of one man battling the corruption of a future age in MARSHAL LAW. Set against the backdrop of a post-natural disaster, the action series depicts a new brand of justice created to contain a new brand of crime.

The special 4-page HELL RIDER, by writer/artist **Joe Jusko**, takes another look at the future. It's an adventure that explores life after a man-made disaster has leveled the world.

Finally, writer **J. Marc DeMatteis** and artist **Kent Williams** bring the world of BLOOD to life in a four-issue Limited Series. The tale is set in a world where one man goes on a quest to unfathom the many mysteries of the land—and discovers vampires play a big role in the solution. Fully painted and produced in the mini-graphic-novel format, BLOOD promises to be an eerie and a beautiful series to behold.

VIDEO JACK. MARSHAL LAW. HELL RIDER. BLOOD. This summer the place to be is Epic Comics. You won't want to miss a single issue.

—Bill Slavicsek

MARSHAL LAW © 1987 by Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neil.

STAR SPOTLIGHT

SilverHawks™

Soaring across the cosmos to protect the Earth from a hoard of evil cyborgs are **the Silverhawks**! Their adventures don't take place until the mid-24th Century, but readers will have the advantage of seeing the Silverhawks in May of 1987, when they begin in their own Star Comic.

The new monthly series, based on the popular TV cartoon from Rankin/Bass, is written by **Steve Perry** (known for his work on PSI-FORCE and THUNDERCATS), and features art by two newcomers to Marvel: penciler **Mike Witherby** and inker **Jim Sanders**.

SILVERHAWKS #1 opens in the year 2350, when the planetary government of Earth has ordered the heroic **Commander Stargazer** to imprison **Mon*Star**, the most dangerous criminal in the universe. Their destination: a dark, distant galaxy named Limbo. Inside that cosmos lies the Penal Planet, a maximum-security space station designed to hold the deadliest intergalactic criminals. No ordinary human could survive the journey to Limbo, and so Commander Stargazer must be transformed into a "Super-Android." His new, golden cybernetic body possesses great strength and a zoom-lens left eye, allowing him to see over vast distances.

Unfortunately, Commander Stargazer's extreme effort may have been for naught for in the year 2500, Mon*Star escapes from the Penal Planet! A burst of radiation from a strange sun called the Moon-Star changes Mon*Star into a giant, armored cyborg. Riding a monstrous space squid called **Sky-Runner**. Mon*Star frees the other members of his mob from the Penal Planet. Joining forces with Mon*Star are: **Buzz-Saw**, a robot assassin; **Yee-Man**, Mon*Star's groveling sidekick; **Mo-Lec-U-Lar**, the shape-changing master of disguise; **Poker-Face**, the

SILVERHAWKS TM and © 1987 by Lorimar Telepictures.

gambling boss of the Mob; **Time-Stopper**, who can—well—stop time temporarily; **Windhammer**, controller of galactic storms; **Mumbo-Jumbo** the gang's mumbling, robotic, enforcer; weapon specialist, **Hardware**; and the musical **Melodia**.

Mon*Star and his villainous cronies establish a base of operations on the planet Brim*Star, a world whose molten core burns furiously. Inside the Mob's heavily armored headquarters, the Fortress, is a Transformation Chamber, which Mon*Star and Yes-Man can align with the rays of the Moon-Star. When Mon*Star recites the following spiritually uplifting chant—"Moon-Star of Limbo . . . give me the Might . . . the Muscle . . . the Menace . . . of MON*STAR!"—he again assumes his giant, armored form. While in the Fortress itself, Mon*Star always remains in his original form.

His evil goals are relatively simple and straight-forward. First, he intends to dominate the galaxy of Limbo. Secondly, he and his Mob will attack the galaxies that lie between Limbo and the Milky Way. But he will stop at nothing less than the complete conquest of the planet Earth.

Commander Stargazer alerts Earth to Mon*Star's galactic schemes and requests help to defeat the Mob. Five volunteers come forward and they too undergo the transformation into Super-Androids in order to survive the journey to Limbo. The leader of this new group is named **Lieutenant Quicksilver**. His glittering metallic hair complements a face with classically handsome features. **Bluegrass**, the pilot, is like a cowboy made of bright blue alloys. He doesn't travel anywhere without his trusty guitar, on which he plays some rock riffs. (No heavy metal puns, please.)

The technologists of the Silverhawks team are twins, **Sergeants Steelheart** and **Steelwill**. They also provide the team with great mechanical knowledge and the occasional use of "Strongarm" tactics. Their highly intelligent minds allow them to communicate with each other over vast distances via telepathy.

The Silverhawks' fifth member is stranger still. A native of the planet of Mimes, **the Copper Kidd** does not speak, but he whistles when he wants to communicate. He's a genius in both mathematics and computer science.

Once the transformations are completed, the Silverhawks undergo a rigorous training schedule to learn the extent of their cybernetic powers. Of all these, the most visually eye-catching is their ability to sky-dive through space, gliding on silver wings which emerge from their own bodies. Bluegrass is the only Silverhawk not to possess these wings. On the other hand, he doesn't really need them, since he's the pilot of the Mirage, the Silverhawks' personal space vehicle. There are four launch pods built into it, from which the team launches itself into flight. The Mirage can also operate on automatic pilot and can become effectively invisible using "stealth" technology.

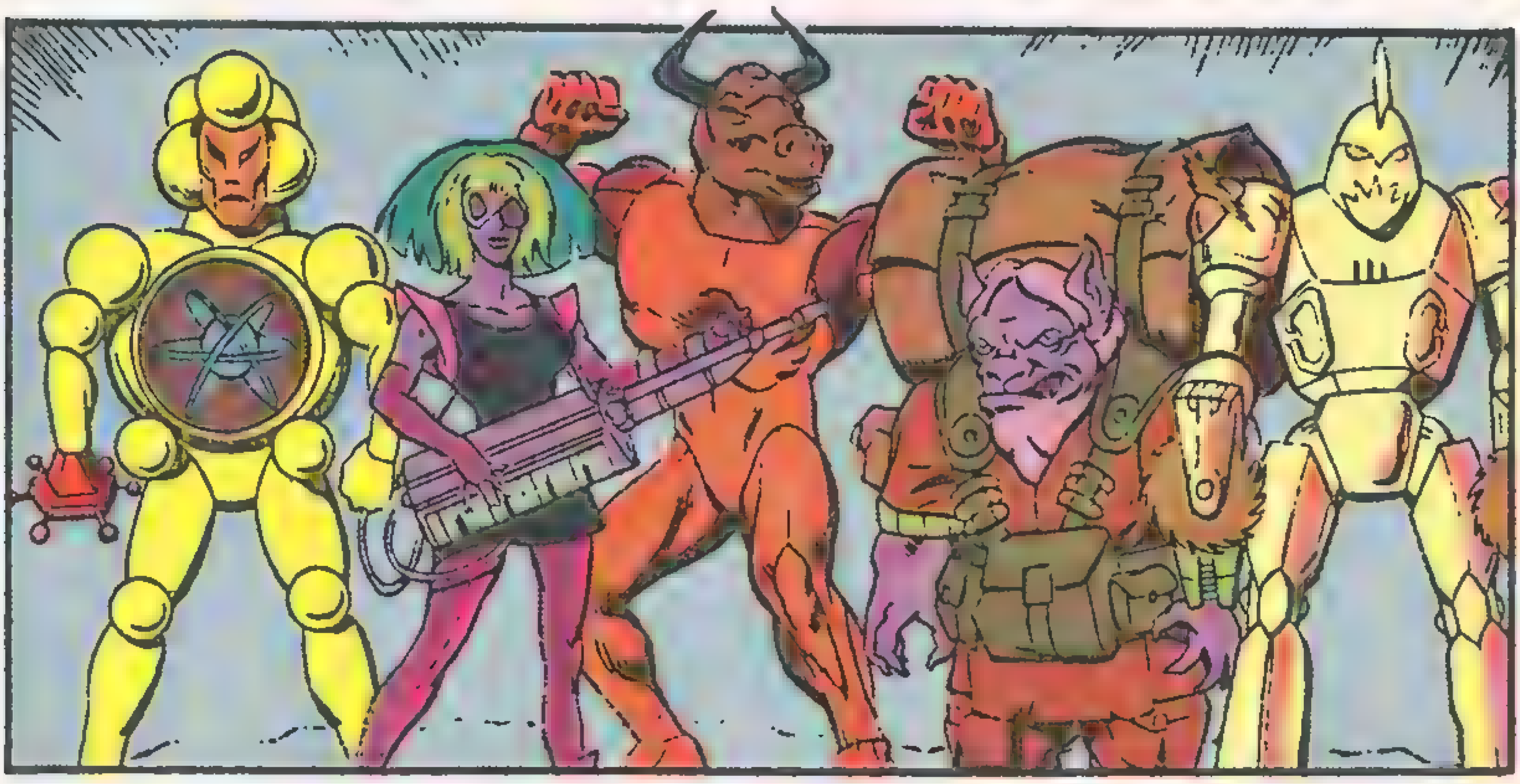
The Silverhawks display their abilities before a gathering of officials of Earth's government, who are satisfied that the team can accomplish their mission to Limbo. In 2550, the Silverhawks arrive at Cmdr. Stargazer's hawk-shaped headquarters, Hawkhaven, which rests on an asteroid in deep space. Docking the Mirage, the team enters Hawkhaven and is conducted by Stargazer's voice toward his private office. This room, in contrast to the high-tech look of the rest of the fortress, is cluttered and old-fashioned in appearance, resembling a police precinct station of the 1950's.

The Silverhawks finally meet the man who will command them on their dangerous mission, and Stargazer briefs them on Mon*Star, his Mob and the Limbo galaxy. The heart of Limbo is an artificial sun, and some of the galaxy's worlds include Dolare, the banking planet; Automata, center of Limbo's mining; Bedlama, home of Limbo's native population; and the outlaw planet, Fence. The gambling center is the Starship Casino, which doubles as Poker-Face's domain.

In the course of the briefing, the Silverhawks are introduced to **Tally-Hawk**, a falcon with cybernetic parts. Equipped with a diamond-sharp curved beak, carbide-tipped talons, and eyes which can act as thermal lances, Tally-Hawk is controlled by Lieutenant Quicksilver. The bird can relay the Silverhawks' messages through the void of space and record videotapes of Mon*Star's criminal acts for Stargazer.

There promises to be battles galore for these cybernetic heroes of the future, for Mon*Star's Mob is determined to get his revenge against those who imprisoned him. For out-of-this-world action with down-to-earth characterization, the choice is here—SILVERHAWKS!

—*Ken Hart*



*Mo-Lec-U-Lar, Melodia, Mumbo Jumbo, Hardware, and Buzz-Saw are Mon*Star's evil cohorts.*

THE MARVEL AGE® 1974 Part IV

Here we go again, off into the bygone days of 1974. This time around, we'll finish off our look at the goings-on for 1974's super heroes and then turn the spotlight to jungle lords, barbarians, and monsters!

Business was slow for everyone's favorite hero for hire, **Luke Cage**, as the year opened. Figuring that a catchy new name would be just the thing to pull in new customers, he set to work looking for a new *nom de guerre*. His musings were interrupted when he was duped into a fight with **Iron Man**, but he eventually got past entries such as **the Ace of Spades** to become POWER MAN! That name would soon cause him trouble, though. After beating **Steeplejack** and the powerful crimelord, **Cottonmouth**, he found himself challenged by someone with an earlier claim to the name—**the Avengers'** old foe, the super-strong criminal, **Power Man**! Luke made short work of the villain, and warned him never to try calling himself Power Man again—or else! (Unfortunately, the villain would soon take Luke's advice. Stealing **Henry Pym's** growth serum, he would become **Goliath**, as seen in recent issues of THE AVENGERS!) Luke fought a villain from his own past next, as **Stiletto** returned to make Luke pay for his "criminal" past. Stiletto wasn't alone this time; he brought his brother, **Discus** (you can probably guess what sort of weapons Discus used). He quickly beat the pair, but let them go when he discovered that they were actually the sons of **Warden Tyler Stuart**, the only man who'd ever given Luke a break when he was wrongly imprisoned in Seagate Prison.

While Luke's series was undergoing a new beginning, the savage SUB-MARINER's series was coming to a close. **Namor** went out with a bang, battling fearsome menaces both on land and at the bottom of the sea. In New York, Namor faced the devastating ray blasts of the man called **Force**. In the sea, he battled the half-human **Men-Fish**. But even worse than the Men-Fish was their lethal leader, **the Piranha** . . . at least until the Piranha wound up devoured by the ordinary piranhas he commanded! Next, Namor learned a lesson about prejudice, as he unthinkingly fought a friendly alien, just as surface men so often judged Namor without thinking. And through it all, Namor's thoughts were always with his subjects, who'd been trapped in comas after being exposed to nerve gas.

From the depths of the ocean, we turn our gaze to the jungles of Africa, where scripter **Don McGregor** and artists **Rich Buckler**, **Klaus Janson**, **Gil Kane**, and **Billy Graham** guided **the Black Panther** through his paces in the pages of JUNGLE ACTION. 1974 found the Black Panther in the middle of an epic struggle against the forces of the evil **Erik Killmonger**. The Panther faced a long list of Killmonger's lackeys, including the beautiful but deadly **Malice**, the fiendish **Baron Macabre**, the horribly deformed **King Cadaver** (and his army of animated corpses), and the formidable **Lord Karnaj**. These battles were so draining that the Panther had to renew his strength and abilities through the magic herb which had

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given him those abilities years before. And as though the Panther didn't have enough to worry about, his girlfriend, **Monica Lynne**, was framed for murder! The Panther eventually cleared her, but he didn't do as well when he finally faced Killmonger in person. The two battled over a fiery pit, but just as the Panther was about to win, he was drugged and left to fight a pack of wolves barehanded!

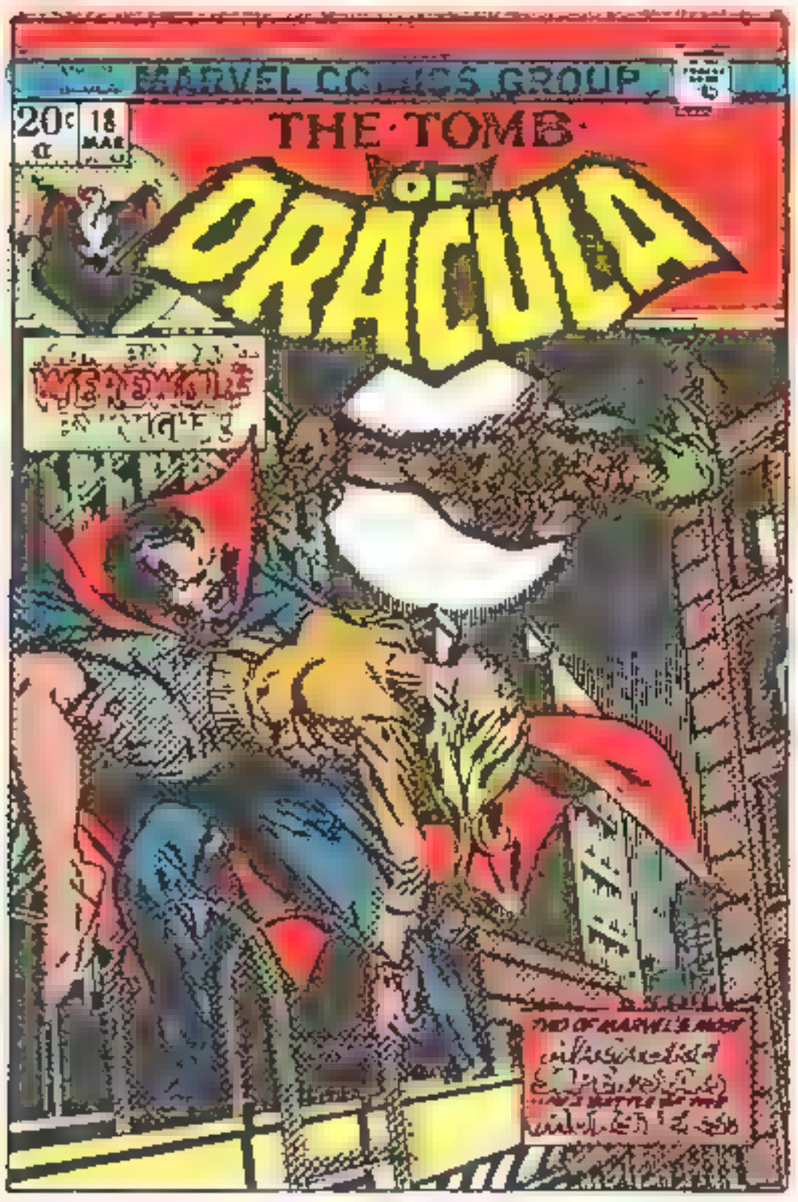
Things weren't going much better for another jungle lord, KA-ZAR! No sooner had **Ka-Zar** returned to his home in the Savage Land (with his sabretooth tiger, **Zabu**, of course) than he found himself becoming a human sacrifice . . . along with **Shanna the She-Devil**! An evil wizard planned to sacrifice them to the sun-god **Garokk**. But Ka-Zar and Shanna defeated the wizard and exposed him for the fake he was. Seeking revenge, the wizard's lackey, **Maa-Gor the Man-Ape**, walked into the Mystic Mists to become a Man-God! Maa-Gor teamed up with the **X-Men's** old foe **El Tigre** and captured Ka-Zar's friend, S.H.I.E.L.D. agent **Bobbi Morse**, (now better known to WEST COAST AVENGERS readers as **Mockingbird**)! Ka-Zar and Zabu were soon captured as well, but the trio escaped in time to stop Maa-Gor and El Tigre's plans. El Tigre tried to use the Mystic Mists to gain power himself, but jumped off a cliff when he saw how ugly the Mists made him. And when Maa-Gor reentered the Mists, he just turned back into a plain old man-ape. With the threat ended, Ka-Zar joined young **Kem Horkus** on a quest which began as a hunting trip but ended as a quest for vengeance for Kem's slain brother.

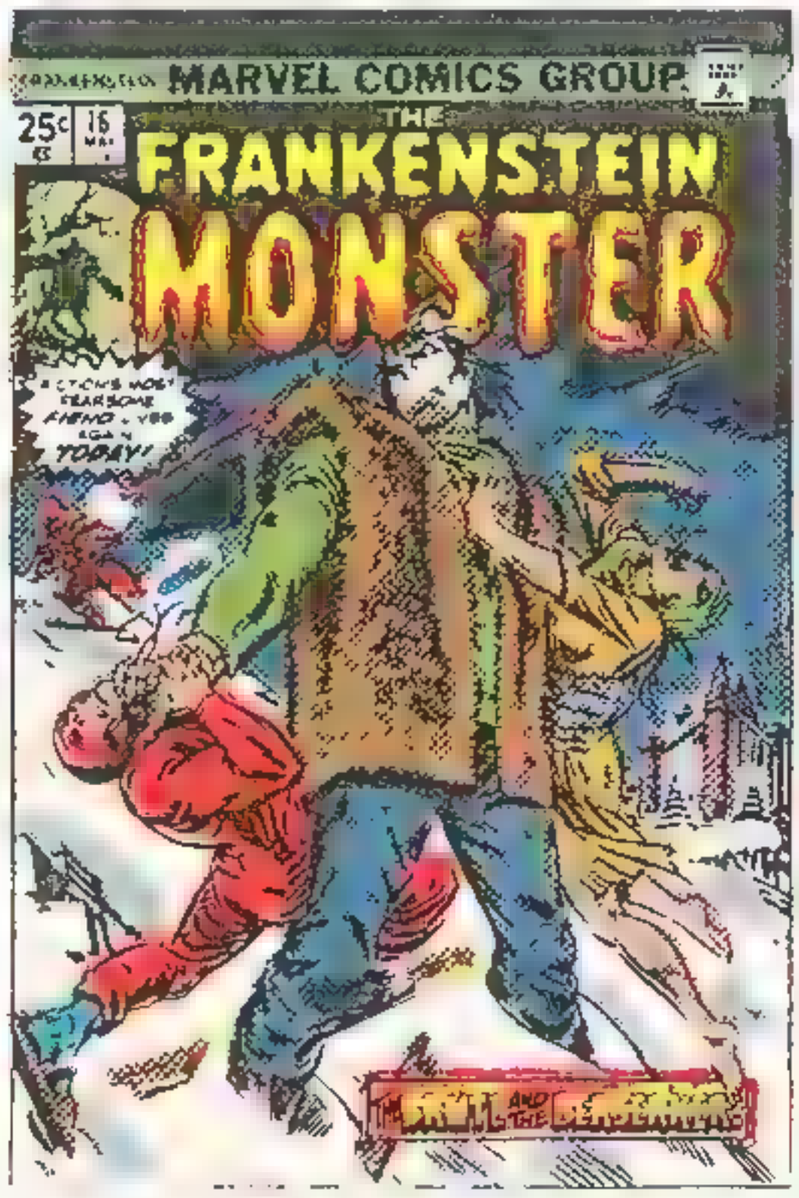
CONAN THE BARBARIAN would embark on quite a few similar quests in 1974, in both his regular monthly series and in the magazine THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. As the year opened, **Conan** came face-to-face with Death . . . literally! Before the year was out, Conan would face wizards, bat-gods, bull-gods, living statues, baboon-men, dragons, giant slugs, a were-woman and were-man (yes, we know that means "man-man"), gargoyles, vampire wizards, and various monsters and creatures. He would even meet up with **Red Sonja** again, although, true to form, Sonja would knock him out and vanish as soon as they accomplished their tasks.

Not to be outdone, KULL THE DESTROYER battled awesome, giant monsters in the days of ancient Atlantis. **Kull** faced a number of bizarre menaces, including the mighty **Man-Ogre** and lovely **Santha**, who could turn into a tremendous, deadly, pterodactyl-like creature! Whew!

Quite a few monsters weren't fighting Marvel's title characters—they *were* the title characters! Everybody's favorite undead Lord of the Vampires was keeping busy in the pages of TOMB OF DRACULA and the black-and-white magazine DRACULA LIVES! Writer **Marv Wolfman** and penciler **Gene Colan** (along with talented inkers such as **Tom Palmer**) forged TOMB OF DRACULA into a classic, award-winning series. Under Marv and Gene's guidance, Dracula traveled the world, fighting his long-time nemeses, **Rachel Van Helsing** and **Frank Drake**, not to mention the forces of the mysterious **Dr. Sun**. Dracula won an occasional battle or two; he even managed to put the bite on one of his deadliest foes, **Blade the Vampire Slayer**! Before the year was out, Dracula even crossed swords (or is that "fangs?") with a certain **Werewolf by Night**!

The WEREWOLF BY NIGHT fought quite a few battles in his own series as well, thanks to scripter **Mike Friedrich** and artists **Mike Ploog**, **Don Perlin**, and **Vince Colletta**. He battled vampires on the moon! (Well, actually, it was a movie set of the moon.) And **Jack Russell** and his fellow werewolf **Raymond Coker** were faced with quite a dilemma when they discovered that the cure for lycanthropy was killing another werewolf! Fortunately, Raymond didn't have to kill Jack to be free of his curse. When the pair was attacked by a third werewolf (who doubled as a police lieutenant), Raymond killed him and regained his humanity. Jack continued to search for a cure, and that search led him into fights with the likes of the powerful, deformed ex-actor, **Atlas** and a Jekyll/Hyde type of scientist named **Winston Reddltch** who transformed into the fiendish **De-Prayve**! It wasn't any of these fearsome foes that brought about the Werewolf's downfall, though; he ended





MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Some pretty good stuff in there this time, eh? If you'd like to buy your own copies of some of the issues we've been talking about (and you think your heart can stand the strain), here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics specialty shop. Our source, as usual, is **Robert Overstreet's** *The Comic Book Price Guide* #16. But remember: This is only a guide. Prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**			
34–36	.40	1.20	2.40
37 **Neal Adams** cover	.85	2.50	5.00
38–40	.40	1.20	2.40
41–43	.25	.75	1.50
44–45 **Neal Adams** inks	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **JUNGLE ACTION**			
8–12		.30	.60
■ **KA-ZAR**			
1		.60	1.20
2–6		.40	.80
■ **KULL THE DESTROYER**			
12–15		.40	.80
16–17		.30	.60
■ **THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN**			
8–13		.25	.50
■ **POWER MAN**			
17–20	.40	1.20	2.40
21–22		.60	1.20
■ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN**			
1	2.50	7.50	15.00
2	1.25	3.75	7.50
■ **SUB-MARINER**			
69–72		.25	.50
■ **TOMB OF DRACULA**			
16–20		.60	1.20
21–37		.45	.90
■ **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**			
13–16		.30	.60
17–24		.25	.50

the year trapped in a net, a prisoner of the police.

Like the Werewolf, THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN also fought Dracula in 1974. Many years ago, Dracula ravaged a small European town. The townspeople blamed a band of gypsies who'd befriended **the Frankenstein monster** and destroyed their camp. The monster stormed into town for revenge but got captured instead! The townspeople tried to burn him at the stake, but he escaped and took revenge on Dracula by driving a stake through his heart and killing him! (Of course, Dracula would later be revived when the stake was removed.) The monster also sought revenge against **Vincent Frankenstein**, the last descendant of his creator, but Vincent offered to transplant the monster's brain into a human body instead. Before Vincent could conduct the operation, however, his deformed assistant, **Ivan**, rebelled and freed the monster! And in the meantime, Vincent was killed by his maid after his preoccupation with his experiments caused his wife to die in childbirth! Despondent, the monster hurled himself into the icy sea. He was frozen into suspended animation until he was eventually thawed out in a new age—the present!

And that about wraps up yet another year in our relentless review of Marvel's past. Join us again next time when we kick off our look at 1975 with the saga of the original **Nomad** and the true origin of **the Vision**!

—*Sholly Fisch*

DESPERATELY SEEKING SOMETHING!

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Ave, So., New York, N.Y. 10016

This month's letter column title comes to us from Kirk Allen of sunny Rialto, California. Thanks, Kirk!

What we're desperately seeking right now is a new title for this letter column next month—and every month, in fact! So give it some thought and send in your best effort. We'll even print your name in this space to say "thank you."

And now, on to the letters!

Dear **Irving Forbush**,

THE FANTASTIC FOUR, Marvel's first comic book, is on issue #301. However, THOR, which came out after the FANTASTIC FOUR, is now on issue #378. THE HULK also came out after THE FF, but it has printed more issues (it's on #330). It's the same thing with CAPTAIN AMERICA (now on issue #328). So how come THOR, THE HULK, and CAPTAIN AMERICA have all come out with more issues than *the World's Greatest Comic Magazine*? They should all be somewhere in the 200's.

Craig Benson
150 North St.
Salem, MA 01970

Would you believe we can't count, Craig?

Actually, there's a good reason why THOR, THE HULK, and CAPTAIN AMERICA are up to higher numbers than the FF. You see, back in the 1950's (when Marvel was still called Atlas Comics), there were three titles which featured science fiction and horror stories: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, TALES TO ASTONISH, and TALES OF SUSPENSE. Years later, after the FF had already started taking the world by storm, these titles began featuring super heroes. And eventually, the heroes got so popular that they took over the titles! JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY became THOR as of issue #126. TALES TO ASTONISH turned into THE HULK in issue #102. And CAPTAIN AMERICA replaced TALES OF SUSPENSE with issue #100. So you see, even though the Hulk and Thor haven't been around as long as the FF, their titles have been around longer than the FF's! And if you understand that one, maybe you could explain it to us—we still get confused about it!

Dear Marvel,

I am an old collector of your comic books, and I recently moved to St. Louis from Hawaii. In Hawaii, there were many comics shops that collectors could go to, but since I have moved here, I cannot find a decent store to go to. I was wondering if you could possibly send me a list of places I could look up in the area of St. Louis and Festus, MO.

I must thank you for bringing back the original **X-Men** in X-FACTOR and also for CLASSIC X-MEN. You guys have been doing a great job and the art work is fantastic.

I have managed to find this one place which is very small and doesn't carry much of anything, in case you were wondering.

Blake Cranford
Rt. 3, Box 221
Festus, MO 63028

A good first place to start looking for comics specialty shops is in the Yellow Pages of your local phone book, Blake. Try looking under "Book Dealers—Retail" and "Book Dealers—Used & Rare."

Another good idea is keeping an eye on the "Marvel Super Mart" listings that you can find in most Marvel comics. You might get surprised and discover that there's a comics specialty shop right in your neighborhood!

Finally, if you want to be sure of getting your favorite Marvel comics every month, you can always subscribe through one of the handy ads to be found in most Marvel comics.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

How about having series of one-shot adventures like you did with WONDER MAN? Each issue would feature a different character or two in his/her/their own adventure. I think you should use characters that get the least attention like **Le Peregrine, Defensor, Vanguard**, and so on. Plus: it would be a good way to feature origins of characters in one-shot format. You could have the origins of **Destiny, the Blob, Spider-Woman**, etc., and all of the aforementioned heroes. Other characters you could do one-shots on are **Hawkeye, Sunspot, Rogue, Puck, Northstar** and **Aurora, the Beast, the Black Widow, Wolfsbane, Storm, Cyclops, the Black Panther**, and **Mass-Master** (before POWER PACK #25). Please take the one-shot adventure series into consideration. Thank you.

J. Smith
5 Ambay St.
Allston, MA 02134

Actually, J., there's a series in the works that might be just what you're looking for! Its tentative title is SOLO AVENGERS, and every issue will feature a Hawkeye solo story and a story featuring one of the other Avengers, past or pre-

sent. Is that service or what?

As for the non-Avengers origins you asked about, we suggest you check out MARVEL SAGA and THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION to get all of the details on those characters' backgrounds.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have only been truly interested in comics for about six months, yet I have a collection of about 330 issues so far. I collect about 30 titles including all four SPIDER-MAN titles, AVENGERS (and WEST COAST AVENGERS), THOR, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR, etc. Needless to say, comics are my life! The only field of work I'm interested in is (what else) comics! Although I am not a great artist or scripter, I would like to know what other jobs are available at Marvel? I'm only 14, so I'll have plenty of time to develop my "latent mutant talents."

This is my first letter, so I'll be looking for it in the letter page.

Joe Thomann
22248 Olean Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Okay, time for a serious answer.

We hope you're exaggerating when you say that comics are your life, Joe. We love comics too and we're thrilled that you enjoy them. But there's a lot more to life than just comics. Be careful you don't overlook other things because you're concentrating too heavily on comics.

You might even find that the other interests you develop will lead you into a career in comics. Marvel employs people with backgrounds in everything from editing and magazine production to advertising to contract and copyright law. And lots of the folks around here also work outside comics. MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's own Sandy Hausler will be graduating from law school any day now (Congrats, Sandy). And Sholly Fisch (the guy writing this letter column) is working toward a Ph.D. in Psychology.

We don't want to discourage you from trying to work in comics, Joe. We just want to make sure you don't get so set on it that you miss out on other things.

Dear People at Marvel,

I have two requests for you:

1. Please have a SECRET WARS III. I missed the first two.

2. How about bringing back MARVEL TEAM-UP or making a MARVEL TEAM-UP DIGEST?

'Til next time: Go, Joe!, It's clobberin' time!, and everything else. 'Nuff said.

Richard Ballato
32–74 38 St.
Astoria, NY 11103

Hate to disappoint you, Richard, but there aren't any plans for a SECRET WARS III. We still haven't recovered from the first two!

On the other hand, while there aren't any plans to bring back MARVEL TEAM-UP, classic MTU stories are being reprinted in MARVEL TALES even as we speak! And you can probably find back issues of MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS and SECRET WARS II at your local comics specialty shop or through one of the many comics dealers that advertise in our comics. Happy hunting!

And now, once again, it's time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH. Every month, we pick one letter (sometimes more than one) that really catches out attention. Then we print it with a spiffy yellow background to make sure that it catches everyone else's attention as well.

This issue's Letter of the Month deals with an organization that we think is long overdue.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

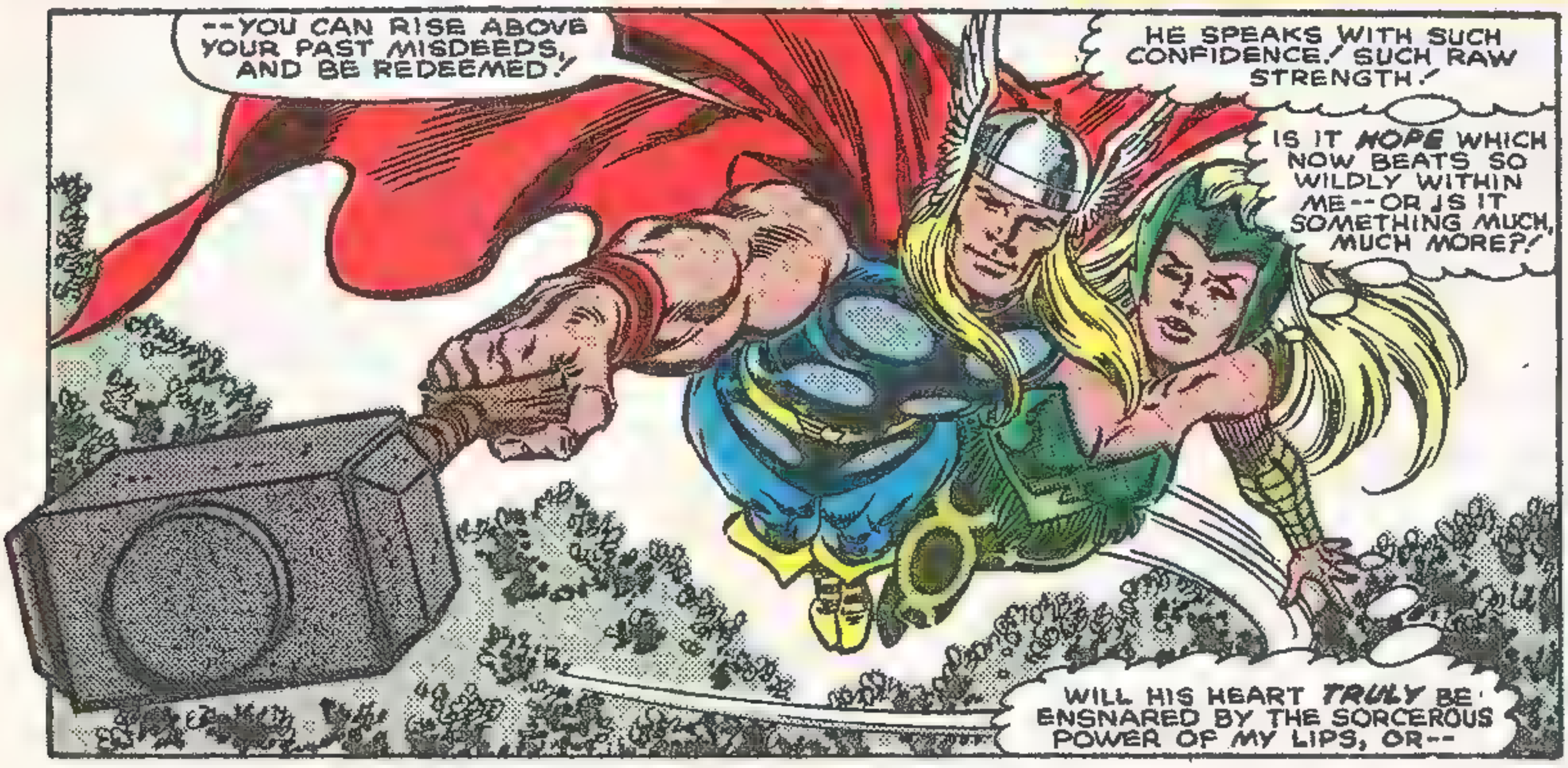
I just wanted to tell you that I am starting a **Fred Hembeck** fan club called "Fred Hembeck Lovers International!" Please print this letter so that "Fred fans" can write to us and join. It's free! All I ask is that you send me a stamp so I can send you the fan club newsletter. In the newsletter, we'll talk about how Fred got into comics as well as put the new members' names and addresses so that the members can write to each other.

I have six members so far. Among them are **Ken Madsen** of California and **Oscar Cuellar Jr.** We hope to get a lot more members.

Fred has inspired as well as entertained me. He taught me to draw the way I feel, not the way other people feel. The Fred Hembeck Lovers International would like you to do a whole issue based on Fred. And please let him do a Limited Series.

Well, thank you for listening.

Brian Swanson, V.P. and
Chris Terry, Pres
The Fred Hembeck Lovers
International
c/o Chris Terry
321 Cathrerine Dr.
Westfield, IN 46074


--YOU CAN RISE ABOVE YOUR PAST MISDEEDS, AND BE REDEEMED!
HE SPEAKS WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE! SUCH RAW STRENGTH!
IS IT HOPE WHICH NOW BEATS SO WILDLY WITHIN ME--OR IS IT SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH MORE?!
WILL HIS HEART TRULY BE ENSNARED BY THE SORCEROUS POWER OF MY LIPS, OR--

Good luck, Chris. We're pretty big Fred Hembeck fans ourselves, and we're glad to see Fred finally getting some of the recognition he deserves.

Hey, great news! Next month, Fred will become the regular penciler on THE NEW MUTANTS, and Bill Sienkiewicz is returning to ink the series!

No, just kidding. There aren't any plans for a regular series (or even a Limited Series) for Fred. But the FRED HEMBECK DESTROYS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE one-shot will be out this Spring. And we hope you caught the FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST Fred did a couple of years ago.

Of course, you can also find Fred's work every month in a certain Marvel news magazine. Now what was its name again . . . ?

Dear Mighty MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Never before have I had such a zany excuse to write a letter to anybody, but I think I have found one this time. On all of the November Marvel comics, which have all of the heroes around the sides and bottom, I think I have found something peculiar. The reference to you guys is on the cover of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #44. I'm sure that others have noticed it, but I wanted to point it out anyway. The way it looks to me, **the Thing** is smoking a cigar?! When I first saw this, I thought it was a mistake but now I'm not so sure. I don't know if Ben has an attraction to cigars but I would like to find out. By no means is this a complaint because I can't remember any time in my 2+ years of being a Marvel-collector of ever having a complaint. In other words, you're doing a good job.

I can't think of anything else to say, so until the Thing dies of lung cancer—Make Mine Marvel!

Gary Buckley
1040 Corona Crescent
Coquitlam, B.C. Canada V3J 7J3

Gee, Gary, Ben's been smoking cigars for as long as we can remember. The Thing without his trusty cheroot would be like Mr. Fantastic without his cosmic-powered hyper-dimensional molecule scanner thingamajigs!

Does that mean it's a good idea to smoke cigars? No. Does that mean Ben *should* smoke cigars? No. But unfortunately, like most of us, ol' Blue Eyes doesn't always do everything he should.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've been collecting comic books for about two months, and Marvel is my favorite. I think you should do a Limited Series with all of your super heroes in individual fighting matches until there is a champion. The winner, being the most powerful, can have an issue about him or herself.

David Andreason
6267 Stow Canyon Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117

Sounds like a great idea, David, but there's just one problem: Who would win? We've got a feeling that no matter who the champion was, we'd get thousands of letters from all of the other heroes' fans, complaining that their favorites should have won!

How about it, folks? Just out of curiosity, who do you think would win David's contest? (That should start an argument or two.)

Dear Marvel,

I've never written before but I believe it's about time. I think the Marvel Comics Group is #1, the greatest, fantastic!!

I've just finished MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47, and I just had to respond. I agree with **Scott Tilsen** of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. **Wolvie** should definitely have his own book! You're torturing all us dedicated Wolverine fans! Also, I agree totally with **Eric Green** and **Chris Terry** about making friends through Marvel. What a wonderful idea. The pen-pal column is a must! I encourage all MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE readers to voice their opinions and send their addresses. It feels good to know that two people can become friends through a great mag! That's you, Marvel. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Chris Kernica
18110 Olympia Dr.
Country Club Hills, IL 60477

We will, Chris, we will! Due to popular demand, we hereby announce the formation of an official MARVEL AGE pen-pal column! Beginning in a few issues, we'll publish the names and addresses of Marvel-maniacs who wish to correspond with their fellow true believers around the world.

To join in on the fun, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of three or so of your favorite Marvel series to:

MARVEL AGE PEN PALS
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

While you're all busy addressing those envelopes or picture postcards depicting hotels in Switzerland, might we suggest that if you have any great ideas as to what to call our pen-pal column, that you do not hesitate to send them in post haste! Pen Pal Column does sound kinda dull, doesn't it? We're sure the collective creative energy of Fandom Assembled can certainly come up with something snazzier than *that*. Right?

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. One of the hospitality centers of the nation: Broken Cross, New Jersey.
2. **Paul** and **Cheryl Mondat** ("Not Monday").
3. Matt's never seen Heather; **the Beyonder** returned his sight, enabling him to see Glori, and in very similar circumstances, **Moondragon** returned his sight for a time, enabling him to see Natasha.
4. **Benedict LaForge**.
5. The mother of **the Death-Stalker**, **Elizabeth Dawes Sterling**.
6. A playing card, the Ace of Spades.
7. **C.J. Cherryh**.
8. **Betsy Beatty**.
9. **Paladin**.
10. A coin toss (DD's hyper-senses enabled him to tell which side of the coin was heads.)
11. **Paul Carson**, one of the great supporting cast good-guys.
12. **Angar, the Screamer**.
13. **The Thunderbolts**—later from this gang would come the ill-fated hero, Thunderbolt.
14. "Tender Affair," never mentioned by name, but clearly visible on movie marquees.
15. Three (though if you're going to be picky, they didn't all *fly* through); **Brock Jones**, the most well-known Torpedo; the originator of the Torpedo armor, **Michael Stivak**; and the assassin hired by **Crime-Wave**.
16. **Dr. Paxton Page**, aka **Death's Head**. (Some dad, huh?)
17. **Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner**, way way back when!
18. **The Owl**.
19. Columbia University.
20. **"Battlin' Jack" Murdock**.

See ya next month, when our trivia category will be: Aliases!

4

Dear Vic,

Guess who's in charge now.
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!!

Love,
Ben

The Thing
The Human Torch
Crystal
Ms. Marvel

The New **Fantastic Four**

STEVE ENGLEHART • JOHN BUSCEMA • JOE SINNOTT

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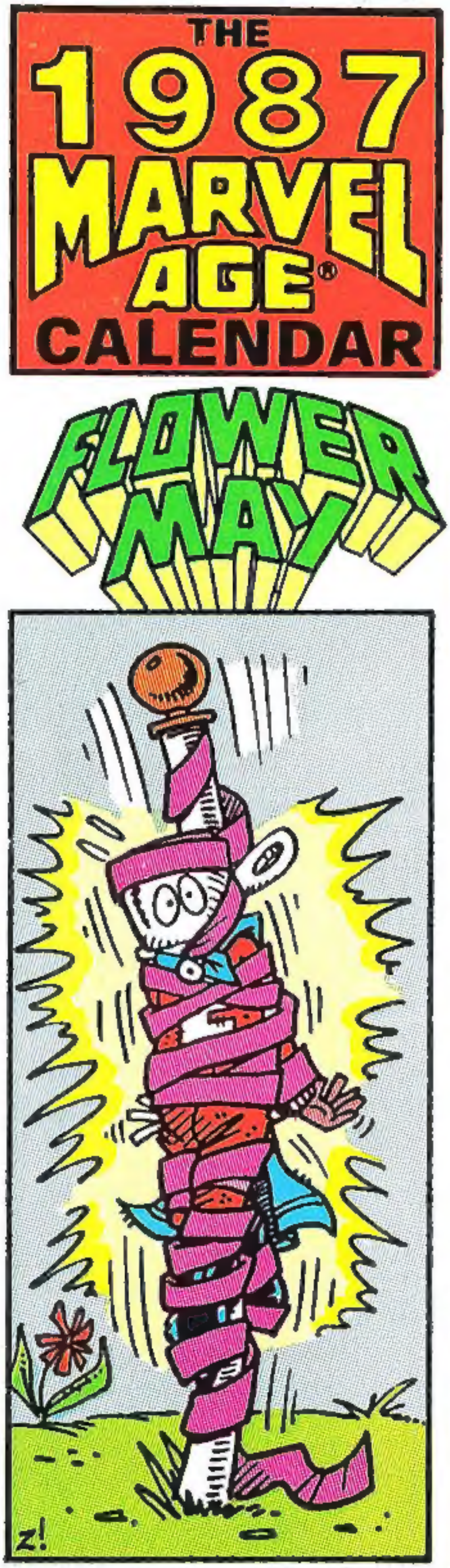
THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR



MIKE CARLIN—WRITER **RON ZALME**—ARTIST **PAUL BECTON**—COLO

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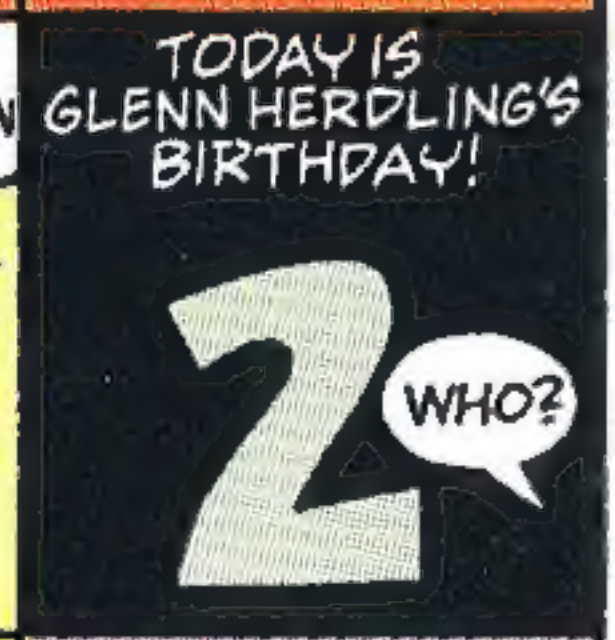

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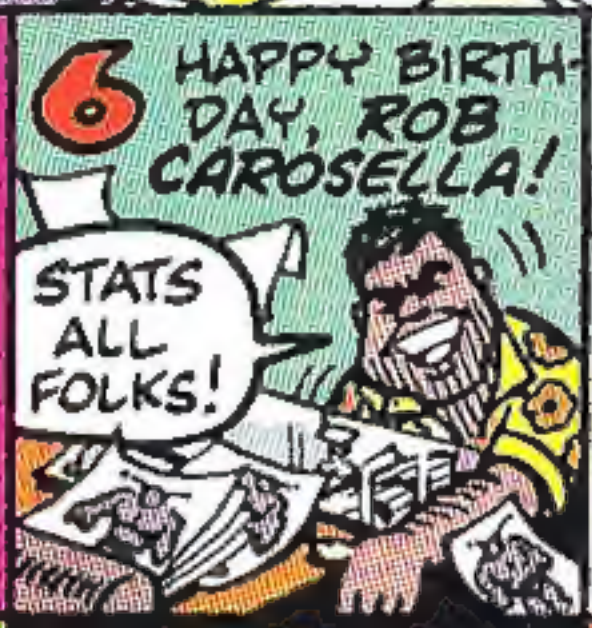

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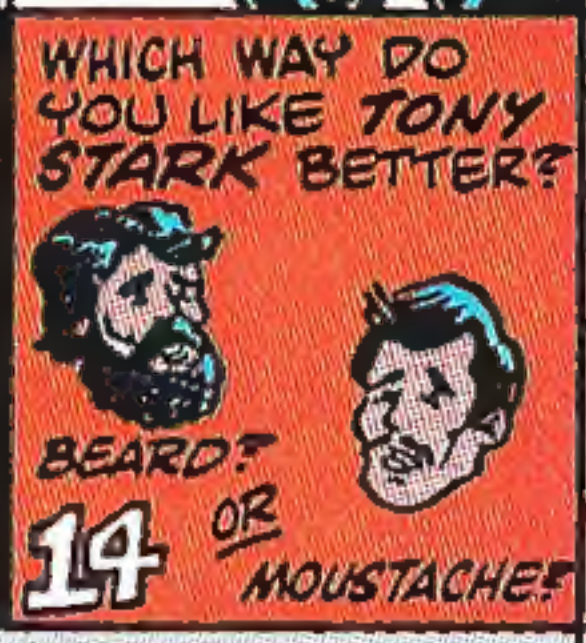

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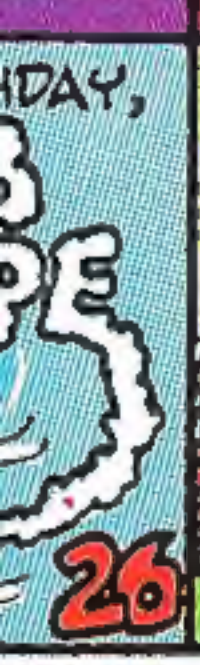

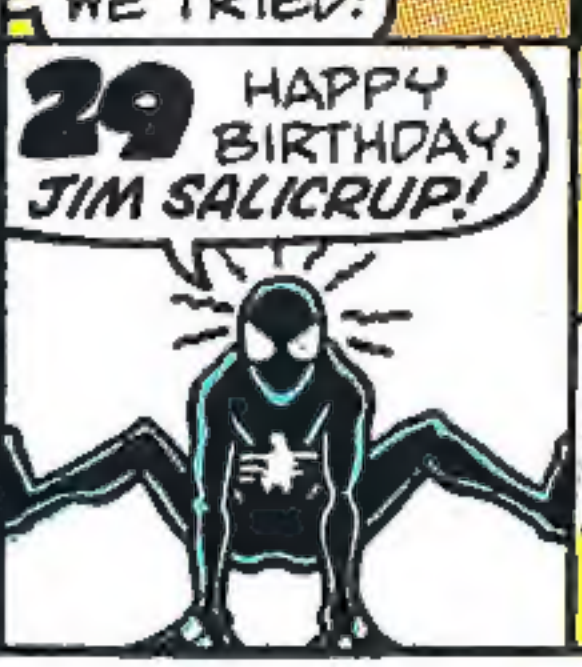

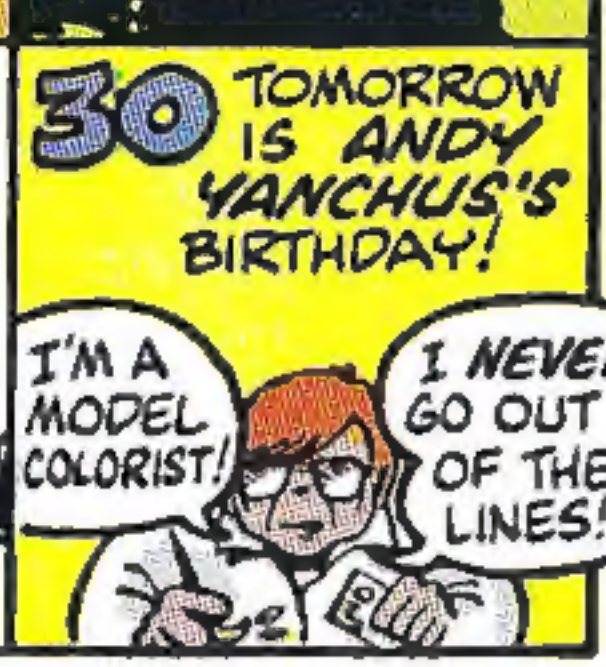

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